S. Wheeler.
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THE

KENTISH

TRAVELLER's COMPANION:

IN A DESCRIPTIVE VIEW

OF THE

TOWNS, VILLAGES, REMARKABLE BUILDINGS,

AND

ANTIQUITIES,

SITUATED ON OR NEAR THE ROAD FROM LONDON TO MARGATE, DOVER, AND CANTERBURY.

Illuſtrated with

A CORRECT MAP OF THE ROAD,

On a Scale of ONE INCH to a Mile;

AND

A TABLE OF DISTANCES IN MEASURED MILES,

From London, and between the principal Towns.

THE FOURTH EDITION,

WITH CONSIDERABLE ADDITIONS.

---------- O famous Kent,--------
What County hath this Iſle, that can compare with thee!
That hath within thyſelf as much as thou canſt wiſh;
Thy rabbits, veniſon, fruits, thy ſorts of fowl and fiſh;
As what with ſtrength comports, thy hay, thy corn, thy wood,
Not any thing doth want that any where is good.

DRAYTON'S POLY-ALBION.

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1794.

BRITISH MUSEUM

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BRITISH
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MUSEUM

THE

Kent Road *from* London *to three Miles beyond* Rochester.

THAMES

Kent Street Gate

Drivers Nursery

Burgh Fm

Sr Wm Sanders

Charlton

Hanging Wood

Charlton Place

Woolwich Common

Pott Houses

Wickham

Academy

Shooters Hill

Eltham Hill

Runnets Wood

Danson Hill

Darford Creek

May Place

Crayford Church

Bexley

Heath

Erith

Darford Heath

Stone

Swanscomb

Northfleet

Chalk Pits

Dartford Brent

Roman Road

Turnpike

Southfleet

Milton

Chalk Church

Ifield

Shorne

Maplesden

Reed House

Little Hermitage

Hermitage

Grinsbury

Upbury

Chatham Hill

CHATHAM

Sea Wall

Lutton

J. Ellis fculp

THE

KENTISH

TRAVELLER's COMPANION.

STAGE I.

*Antiquity and Extent of Kent.—Lewiſham.—Deptford; Trinity Society.—Greenwich.—Blackheath.—Woolwich.—Eltham.—Welling.—Erith.—Crays.—Crayford.—*DARTFORD.

A COURSE of more than eighteen hundred years cannot be ſtrictly ſaid to have deprived the county of Kent of its ancient name. Cæſar denominated it Cantium; time, therefore, has made no further alteration, than in giving it an Engliſh ſound. Whence it acquired this name, antiquarians are not agreed. Lambard, who wrote his famous Perambulation of this County, in 1570, fancied it might be deduced from Caine; which, in the Britiſh tongue, ſignifies a green leaf, becauſe of old this county was full of woods: but this has generally been deemed too forced an etymology. The conjecture of the judicious Camden is more commonly allowed to have a better foundation—that it was ſo called from Britain here ſtretching into a large corner eaſtward, and might therefore be derived from the word Canton, or Cant, which ſignifies a corner, and is ſtill uſed in heraldry.

Kent is a maritime county, ſituated in the ſouth eaſt part of Britain, oppoſite to France; from which kingdom its neareſt limits is about twenty-one miles. It is bounded on the eaſt by the ſea; and on the ſouth, partly by the ſea, and partly by Suſſex, from which the river Rother divides it. Suſſex and Surry are its weſtern limits, and the Thames its northern boundary.

It is in length, from eaſt to weſt, 63 miles; and in breadth, from Rye in Suſſex, to the mouth of the Thames, 35 miles. Its circumference meaſures nearly 170 miles. It contains 12480000 acres of land, upwards of 40000 houſes, 408 pariſhes, and 30 conſiderable towns.

If this computation is accurate, there are not more than five * counties ſuperior to Kent in ſize; but, extenſive as it now is, it is ſuppoſed to have been formerly larger. At the weſtern quarter particularly, it is thought to have included all the land lying on the north ſide the road from New Croſs, through Peckham, and from thence to Lambeth Ferry. Subſequent even to the Norman Conqueſt, the inhabitants of Surry ſeem to have encroached on the boundaries of Kent; the pariſh of Deptford having been wholly within the latter, though the former now claims that part of it in which are the manor of Bredinghurſt, and the manor and ſeat of Hatcham. Bredinghurſt, which is at Peckham Rye, near Camberwell, is particularly recorded as being one of the Knights Fees in Kent, and divers inquiſitions taken ſince the time of Henry II. have found Hatcham to be within the ſame county. Hatcham lies on the north ſide of the road, and at a little diſtance from it. The old manor houſe was taken down but a few years ſince, and nearly on the ſame ſcite is erected that large

* Yorkſhire, Devonſhire, Lincolnſhire, Hampſhire, and Northumberland.

build-

building, which can hardly fail of drawing the tr ave ler's attention. Of Hatcham, it is obſerved by Mr. Haſted, in his new and valuable Hiſto ry of this County, that the name ſhews its ſituation cloſe to the confines of both counties, the ſame as Kent Hatch in Weſterham points out its ſituation at the very outſide of Kent, and as a meſſuage, called Kent Houſe, does its near neighbourhood to the bounderies of it between Beckenham and Croydon in Surry. Admitting then, what, as Mr. Haſted notices, is ſuppoſed by many, Kent, at an early period to have had ancient London then ſituated on the ſouth ſide of the Thames, within its boundaries, it is not a very forced concluſion, that Kent-ſtreet might take the name from its lying within the county, and not merely from its leading out of Southwark into Kent. At preſent, and certainly for ſeveral centuries, the entrance this way into the county is not far from New Croſs. The reception of priſoners from the county of Surry having been for a long ſpace of time at New Croſs, inclined ſeveral to be of opinion, that the limits of the county are upon that ſpot; but in this they are miſtaken; for they extend to a ſmall bridge, now concealed by the raiſing of the road beyond Hatcham, near the way to Bredinghurſt.

After paſſing through the gate at New Croſs, the road on the right hand leads to Lewiſham, Bromley, Sevenoaks, and Tunbridge, in Kent; and to Rye and Haſtings, two of the cinque-ports on the coaſt of Suſſex. The manor of Lewiſham was given by Elthrude, niece to King Alfred, to the abbey of St Peter, at Ghent, in Flanders, by which grant it became a cell of Benedictine Monks to that convent. This religious community obtained afterwards the appropriation of the rectory of the pariſh, and the advowſon of the vicarage;

and when King Henry V. ſuppreſſed the alien priories, he made theſe poſſeſſions a part of the endowment of his new erected Carthuſian convent at Sheene, in Surry. Upon the general diſſolution of monaſteries in England, this manor came to the crown, and remained there 'till the 5th of Queen Elizabeth, who then granted it, with the appurtenances, to Ambroſe Dudley, Earl of Warwick. But, after various changes, it has for ſome time belonged to the family of the preſent Earl of Dartmouth, who is now the proprietor of it. The church of Lewiſham being judged incapable of a repair, application was made to parliament in 1774, by the inhabitants, to empower them to raiſe money for building it; an Act was obtained; in purſuance of which the old church was taken down, and a new one erected on the ſame ground. Between this place and Dulwich, but in Lewiſham pariſh, is a hill with an oak upon it, called the Oak of Honour, becauſe Queen Elizabeth is reported to have dined once under it. Indeed, the original tree, which ſhould have perpetuated the remembrance of its having ſerved for a canopy to this illuſtrious princeſs, has long ſince periſhed; but, it is ſaid, care has been always taken to plant an oak near the ſpot, on which this traditional anecdote might be conſtantly ingrafted. The river Ravenſbourne directs its courſe through this pariſh; at the hamlet of South-end it moves the engines, by which the late Mr. How made thoſe knife blades, ſo famous throughout England.

The main road from New Croſs will convey the traveller to Deptford, which probably acquired this name from the deep channel of the river at the paſſage of it in this place. It is now uſually called Upper Deptford, to diſtinguiſh it from the lower town, which is ſituated

near

near the Thames, but in very ancient writings the latter was denominated Weſt Greenwich, and afterwards Deptford-Strond. Deptford was a place of little note, 'till King Henry VIII. erected here a ſtorehouſe for the royal navy, and from that time it has been enlarging. In this dock-yard the treaſurer of the navy had formerly a houſe; of late years, there has been no commiſſioner reſident, but it has been under the immediate inſpection of the navy-board. More than a thouſand men are conſtantly employed in the various departments of it; and, ſince the conſiderable enlargements it has received, is now the greateſt arſenal for naval ſtores. Here the royal yachts are generally kept, and near the dock is the ſeat of Sir John Evelyn, where Peter the Great, Czar of Muſcovy, reſided whilſt he was informing himſelf in the art of ſhip-building. By an order from Queen Elizabeth the ſhip Pelican, in which Sir Francis Drake ſailed round the globe, was laid up in the maſt-dock belonging to this yard. Phillipot is chargeable with a ſmall miſtake, in aſſerting that nothing was left of this veſſel in a ſhort time; for out of her remains a chair was made, and preſented to the Univerſity of Oxford. This appears from a copy of verſes compoſed by the celebrated Cowley upon this incident.—The well adapted pleaſing lines here referred to, are as follow:

To this great ſhip, which round the world has run,
And match'd in race the chariot of the ſun;
This Pythagorean ſhip (for it may claim,
Without preſumption, ſo deſerv'd a name)
By knowledge once, and transformation now,
In her new ſhape this ſacred port allow.
Drake and his ſhip could not have wiſhed from fate,
An happier ſtation, or more bleſs'd eſtate;

For, lo! a ſeat of endleſs reſt is given,
To her in Oxford, and to him in Heaven.

WORKS, Vol. II.

Beſides the royal dock-yard, there are ſeveral private docks in the neighbourhood of Deptford; ſome of which, from their extent, the many ſhips continually repairing and rebuilding in them, and the vaſt ſtores of timber, tackling, with other neceſſaries laid up there, would be eſteemed in any other country ſufficient for the navy of a kingdom; though they are here fully employed by the merchants and traders of Great Britain. What is called the Red Houſe, is a place ſituated a little to the north-weſt of Deptford, and was a noted collection of ware-houſes and ſtore-houſes built with red bricks, and from that circumſtance had its name. It contained ſeveral ſorts of merchandize, as hemp, flax, pitch, tar, with other commodities of a ſimilar kind, which were all conſumed by an accidental fire in July 1639; the loſs was incredible, for the materials were ſo combuſtible, that nothing could be ſaved. HASTED's *Hiſt.* p. 7.

At Deptford is a ſociety, founded in the year 1515, by Sir Thomas Spert, Knt. and incorporated by Henry VIII. The grant was made in the fourth year of his reign, to the ſhipmen and mariners of this realm, by which they were enabled to begin, to the honour of the Bleſſed Trinity and St. Clement, a guild or brotherhood perpetual, concerning the cunning and craft of mariners, and for the increaſe and augmentation of the ſhips thereof. This prince confirmed to them not only the ancient rights and privileges of the company of mariners of England, but alſo their ſeveral poſſeſſions at Deptford; which, together with the grants of Queen Elizabeth

Elizabeth and King Charles II. were alſo confirmed by Letters Patent of the 1ſt of James II. in 1685, by the name of *The maſter, wardens, and aſſiſtants of the guild, or fraternity of the moſt glorious and undivided Trinity, and of St. Clement, in the pariſh of Deptford-ſtrond, in the county of Kent.*

Lambard has confounded this corporate body with the officers, to whom were entruſted the building and repairing of the king's ſhips; but the former have no authority of this kind over the royal navy.

Their principal buſineſs (and of the higheſt importance it is, that a cloſe attention ſhould be paid to it) is to take cognizance of all ſea-marks, and to erect lighthouſes upon the ſeveral coaſts of the kingdom, for the ſecurity of navigation; to direct the replacing or repairing of ſuch as may be removed or decayed, and to proſecute every perſon who wilfully and maliciouſly deſtroys or injures them. They are likewiſe to give the earlieſt public notice of their proceedings in theſe matters; and of all alterations that are diſcovered reſpecting the depth of water upon the ſea-coaſts; and of every other circumſtance which concerns the navigation within the channel. The cleanſing of the Thames, and the preventing or removing of obſtructions upon the river, is within their province. They ſupply the ſhips that ſail from the river with ſuch ballaſt as is taken out of it to increaſe its depth, for which the owners of them pay the company one ſhilling *per* ton. They employ ſixty barges on this ſervice. They alſo may grant licences to poor ſeamen, not free of the city, to row on the river Thames. They have likewiſe the power of examining the mathematical children of Chriſt's hoſpital, and of the maſters of his Majeſty's ſhips. The appointing pilots, and ſettling the ſeve-

ral rates of pilotage, are within their juriſdiction. They can alſo prevent aliens from ſerving on board Engliſh ſhips, without their licence; and they can puniſh ſeamen, in the merchant's ſervice, for deſertion or mutiny. They have likewiſe the privilege of hearing and determining the complaints of officers and ſeamen in the ſame ſervice; but ſubject to an appeal to the Board, or Court of Admiralty. In conſideration of theſe weighty and neceſſary public duties, and that their ſhips and ſervants are to be at his Majeſty's call, ſeveral immunities have been from time to time granted to the members of the Trinity Houſe. In particular, they are not liable to ſerve on juries; and all the brethren, their officers and ſervants, are entitled to this exemption.

This corporation is governed by a maſter, four wardens, eight aſſiſtants, and eighteen elder brethren. The reſt are called younger brethren, the number of them are unlimited. All the latter are ſeafaring perſons, and are admitted, by election, into the committee. Out of theſe, the elder brethren are choſen, except that there are always among them a few honorary members, generally noblemen, or other perſons of rank, who hold, or have enjoyed, the chief offices of the ſtate. The Duke of Marlborough, the Earl of Guildford, and Lord Weymouth, are at preſent in this number.

They are empowered to purchaſe in mortmain lands, tenements, &c. to the amount of 500l. *per annum*; and alſo to receive charitable benefactions to the like annual income. There are relieved every year, by this company, about 3000 poor ſeamen, widows, and orphans, at the expence of about 6000l. The capital manſion belonging to this corporation is upon Deptford-ſtrond, not far from the old church; where are alſo twenty one

houſes

houſes tenanted by maſters widows. They formerly held their conſultations here, in the hall; but of late years, it has been thought more convenient to meet, for the general management of their buſineſs, at a large and convenient houſe in Water lane, Tower-ſtreet. The brethren, however, have an annual proceſſion to their hall in Deptford, on Trinity Monday, when they elect their maſter for the enſuing year.

Beſides Trinity-Houſe, there is alſo in Deptford another building called Trinity-Hoſpital, which has thirty-eight houſes fronting the ſtreet. It is a handſomer ſtructure than the other, though not ſo ancient, and has large gardens belonging to it. This, as well as the former, is for the benefit of decayed pilots, maſters of ſhips, or their widows; the men being allowed 30s. and the women 16s. per month.

There is likewiſe another foundation called Trinity-Hoſpital, ſituate at Mile-End. The ground on which this hoſpital ſtands was given to the corporation of the Trinity-Houſe by Captain Henry Mudd, an elder brother. This building was erected by the company in 1695, for the reception of twenty-eight maſters of ſhips, or their widows, each of whom receives 16s. per month, 20s. a year for coals, and a gown every ſecond year.

Originally, Deptford was only one parochial diſtrict, the church of which was dedicated to Nicholas, a ſaint believed by our Saxon anceſtors to be propitious to mariners, merchants, and fiſhermen; and we therefore find many ſacred edifices upon the ſea-coaſt, adjoining to great rivers put under his protection. St. Nicholas day, December 6, is ſtill a great feſtival in the Greek church, and the ſaint in high veneration among the Ruſſian ſailors.—"Between Irkutſky and the lake Baykall, in Siberia,

beria, is a ſmall chapel, dedicated to St. Nicholas, where travellers uſually pay their devotions, and pray for a proſperous voyage over the lake. About this religious houſe there are a few fiſhermen's huts. Two monks conſtantly attend, to put people in mind of their duty, and to receive a ſmall gratuity from the travellers." BELL's *Travels*, p. 275 ——" After paſſing the lake, (ſtyled, by the pilots and ſailors who navigate it, and ſpeak of it with much reverence, the Holy Sea) we ſailed up the river Selinga to a ſmall oratory, dedicated alſo to St. Nicholas, where all hands went on ſhore to return thanks for their ſafe paſſage." *Ibid.* p. 283.—The preſent fabric of St. Nicholas, at Deptford, was begun towards the concluſion of the laſt century; and as Iſaac Loader, Eſq. who ſerved the office of high-ſheriff for this county in 1701, contributed 901l. towards the rebuilding and beautifying of it, the name of ſo generous a benefactor ought not to be omitted, even in a conciſe hiſtorical account of this pariſh. His gifts were as follow:

By ſubſcription for building the church	£125
For paving the aiſles with marble -	161
For the altar - -	293
For veſtry and portals -	50
For the bells - -	38
For the charnel-houſe -	194
For recaſting the tenor with addition of metal	40
Total	901

From the great increaſe of inhabitants by the eſtabliſhment of a dock-yard, an additional church was much wanted, before a favourable opportunity offered of erecting one. The new church, ſtyled St. Paul's, was built under the direction of the commiſſioners for building fifty new churches within the bills of mortality, and

was

was conſecrated June 30, 1730. In which year an act of parliament paſſed to provide a maintenance for the miniſter of this new church, and for making of a diſtinct pariſh. It is noticed by Mr. Haſted, as a remarkable circumſtance in the above act, that out of 2000 acres of land which belonged to St. Nicholas, Deptford, near 1970 were given to the pariſh of St. Paul. Beſides which, four acres of glebe were taken from the old, and veſted in the church-wardens of the new pariſh for the time being, who pay the ſum of 70l. yearly, as a further maintenance to the Rector, over and above the intereſt of 3500l. allotted by the act, and placed in the Old South Sea Annuities for that purpoſe. The conſequence of this unequal diviſion of lands is, that whilſt the pariſh of St. Paul ſupports its own poor at a yearly aſſeſſment of about 2s. 4d. the rate for the like uſe in that of St. Nicholas is ſeldom leſs than 5s. 6d. in the pound. HASTED's *Hiſtory of Kent*, p. 13.

The river which runs through this town is called the Ravenſbourn, and riſes at Hollywood Hill in Keſton, a pariſh well known to the lovers of antiquity, from the remains of a Roman camp ſtill to be traced in it. The ſource of the river is not far from this fortification, and flows from thence by Hayes to Bromley, where, on the eaſt ſide it takes in a ſmall brook, as it does on the ſame ſide a ſecond, about half way between Bromley and Lewiſham. At the north end of Lewiſham it receives a third little ſtream; and from thence, paſſing under Deptford-Bridge, ſoon diſcharges itſelf into the Thames. The name of this town has a reference to a period, when there was no bridge here, nor is the time known of the firſt erecting of this commodious paſſage over the river. But that there muſt have been a bridge

for

for ſome time before the 26th of King Edward is evident; ſince a record in the Tower of that date mentions it to have been adjudged, that the repair of the bridge over the Ravenſbourn, belonged to the hundred of Blackheath only, and not to the men of the village of Eltham, Modingham, and Woolwich. It was a fair wooden bridge, lately re-edified, when Lambard wrote his Perambulation. But a ſtone bridge was built anno 1623, at the ſole charge of King Charles the Firſt.

About a mile from Deptford is Greenwich, commonly diſtinguiſhed in writings by the name of Eaſt Greenwich, ſituated on the margin of the Thames; and Greenwich, in Saxon *Grenavie*, ſignifies the Green Town or Dwelling, the laſt ſyllable of the word being now, by corruption, written *wich*. It was not formerly ſo famous for its buildings (being indeed only a fiſhing town ſo late as the reign of King Henry V.) as for the ſafe road which the river here afforded for ſhips; and where the whole Daniſh fleet, in the time of King Etheldred, lay three or four years ſucceſſively, whilſt the main body of the army was encamped on the hill above the town, now called Blackheath. From this camp of the Danes ſeveral places in the pariſhes are ſtill denominated *Combes*; *Comb*, as well as *Comp*, ſignifying a Camp; for they uſed both words: the former was more likely the Saxon term, the latter Daniſh, or corrupt Saxon. Greenwich church, now a very noble ſtructure, was rebuilt, in this century, from the fund appropriated for building fifty new churches. It was in ancient times dedicated to St. Elphege, archbiſhop of Canterbury, who is reported to have been martyred by the Danes, anno 1012.

The

The Royal Hoſpital, ſo well known, is ſituated partly on the ground where formerly ſtood a royal palace, of the front of which, next the water, a print was publiſhed a few years ago, from an ancient drawing, by the Antiquarian Society. In that old palace Mary and Elizabeth, the two queens, daughters of Henry the VIII. were born; and there the pious King Edward the VI. died. Humphrey Duke of Glouceſter, brother of King Henry the V. built this palace, and gave it the title of Placence; and by a grant from his nephew Henry the VI. he was empowered to erect a caſtle, and encloſe a park containing two acres. The tower of this caſtle, which was ſituated on the higheſt hill in the park, was finiſhed by King Henry the VIII. but it is now quite raſed, and an obſervatory was erected on this ſpot by King Charles the II. who allotted it for the uſe of an Aſtronomer Royal, whom he placed here with a competent ſalary for his maintenance. This edifice is completely furniſhed with mathematical and optical inſtruments, to anſwer the deſign of its inſtitution, and the office has been ſucceſſively filled by thoſe juſtly celebrated aſtronomers, Mr. Flamſtead, Dr. Halley, and Dr. Bradley. It is at preſent held by the Reverend Nevil Maſkelyne, F. R. S. and of Trinity College, Cambridge, who was appointed 13th February, 1765, on the death of Dr. Nathaniel Bliſs. From Mr. Flamſtead this obſervatory took the name of Flamſtead-Houſe, by which it is now commonly known. King Charles II. alſo began the preſent ſuperb hoſpital, and finiſhed one wing at the expence of thirty ſix thouſand pounds. King William III. erected the other wing; Queen Anne, and King George I. continued the work; but King George II. finiſhed this grand deſign. Part of the weſt

and ſouth fronts were of brick, with ruſtic ornaments of ſtone work; but the ſouth front has been caſed entirely with ſtone within theſe few years*.

There are now above a thouſand diſabled ſeamen amply provided for in this royal aſylum. King Charles, when he built the firſt wing of this hoſpital, intended to have erected a palace, and indeed from the ſtyle and grandeur of the architecture, a foreigner might eaſily miſtake it for one. King William adopted the ſcheme of applying it to the uſe of Engliſh ſeamen, who, by age or accidents, ſhould be rendered incapable of ſervice Beſides the ſeamen which are thus provided for, there are one hundred and fifty boys the ſons of ſeamen, educated and trained up for the ſea; but there are no out penſioners as at Chelſea. Every mariner has a weekly allowance of ſeven loaves, weighing ſixteen ounces each; three pounds of beef, two of mutton, a pint of peas, a pound and a quarter of cheeſe, two ounces of butter, fourteen quarts of beer, and one ſhilling a week tobacco money. The tobacco money to the boatſwains is two ſhillings and ſixpence each, to their mates one ſhilling and ſixpence each, and to the officers in proportion to their rank. Beſides theſe allowances, every common penſioner receives once in two years, a ſuit of blue clothes, a hat, three pair of ſtockings, two pair of ſhoes, five neckcloths, three ſhirts, and two night-caps. Towards the ſupport of this hoſpital, every ſeaman, whether in the royal navy, or in the merchants ſervice, pays 6d. per month. This is ſtopped out of their wages, and paid

* On Saturday, the 2d of January, 1779, a fire broke out in the ſouth-eaſt wing, which raged with great fury for upwards of four hours; eight wards, containing the lodging of near 600 penſioners, with the chapel, (the moſt elegant in the world) were entirely conſumed.

to the treaſurer of the Sixpenny-office on Tower-hill. There are conſiderable eſtates belonging to this hoſpital, and it has received large benefactions. The park, obſervatory, and many elegant buildings on each ſide the park, are worthy attention. Eaſt Greenwich ſent two burgeſſes to the parliament which met at Weſtminſter, anno 4 and 5 of Philip and Mary, namely, Thomas Farnham and John Sakvill, Eſqrs. This is, however, the only return it ever made; but in the reign of Elizabeth, the Aſſizes for the county of Kent were held three times in this place. The town is populous, and among the inhabitants are many perſons of faſhion*. Here is a market on Wedneſdays and Saturdays, which was granted in 1737 to the governors of the royal hoſpital, for the benefit of the charity. At the extremity of the town is a college, for the ſupport of twenty reduced houſekeepers, who, beſides proviſions, are allowed 1s. 6d. per week; and, at ſtated times, gowns, linen, and hats.—Mr. Lambarde was the founder of this charitable inſtitution by letters patent from Queen Elizabeth, dated in 1574. The building was begun next year, and the poor admitted into it Oct. 1, 1576. He called his hoſpital "The College of the Poor of Queen Elizabeth;" and it is ſaid to be the firſt hoſpital founded by a proteſtant ſubject. The whole charge of the edifice, together with the purchaſe of eſtates, amounted to ſomething more than 2700l. By the letters patent it was to conſiſt of a warden, ſub-warden, and eighteen poor; and by the ſame, the maſter of the rolls, and two ſenior wardens of the draper's company are made a body

* In the firſt of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, this place is characterized in the following line:

"Lo Greenwiche, that many a ſhrew is in."

corporate for the government of the college.—Memoirs of this celebrated lawyer and antiquary were lately written and publiſhed by the editor of the *Biblioth. Topog. Britann.*

Blackheath, which lies above Greenwich to the ſouth, is about one mile in length. Some have imagined Blackheath to have been the original name, and that it was ſo denominated from being a bleak or cold ſituation. The air is undoubtedly keen, but this circumſtance probably contributes much to the healthineſs of this delightful ſpot. Though in times of civil commotions large armies have aſſembled here, I do not recollect more than one battle fought, which was in the year 1497, when King Henry VII. routed the Corniſh rebels encamped upon this plain. Hiſtorians vary in their accounts of the numbers killed and taken priſoners. But among the laſt, were the ringleaders, Lord Audley, Hammock, an attorney, and Michael Joſeph, a blackſmith, who were afterwards executed. Phillipot has obſerved, that the place of the ſmith's tent, commonly called his Forge, was remaining when he wrote his Villare, as were likewiſe many of the grave hills of ſuch as were buried after the overthrow. However, almoſt, if not all of theſe mounds are levelled. This heath has alſo been the theatre of many pompous exhibitions, as it was formerly not unuſual for the illuſtrious perſonages who viſited this iſland, to have here their firſt interview with our monarch. In particular, Maurice, the Emperor of Conſtantinople, who in 1411 came over to require aid againſt the Turks, was ſplendidly received on this ſpot by Henry IV. and here, in 1416, King Henry V. is reported to have met the Emperor Sigiſmund, and to have conducted him with magnificence to London.

To

To the weſt of Greenwich Park, are the villas of the Duke of Montagu, and of the late Earl of Cheſterfield. Next the brink of the hill weſtward to the ſouth of the great road, is a ſhort ſtreet called Dartmouth-Row. Adjoining to the houſe of the Earl of Dartmouth, (which is at the ſouth end of the row) is an elegant chapel, which was rebuilt by the preſent Lord, and hath public ſervice in it three times a week, for the benefit of the neighbourhood. There is alſo by Dartmouth-Row a very handſome ſeat in the poſſeſſion of the Lord Viſcount Falkland. On the north ſide of the great road, near the five mile ſtone, behind a pleaſant grove, is a row of genteel houſes, called Chocolate-Row, from the houſe where the Aſſembly is kept. At the weſt end of thoſe houſes is that delightful lawn, named The Point, from which is one of the richeſt proſpects that the imagination of the poet or painter can conceive.

The following extract is from Hollinſhed's account of King Henry the VIIIth's interview upon Blackheath with Lady Ann of Cleves:

" A. 1540, January 3d, being Saturdaie, in a faire plaine of Blackeheath, more neare to the foote of Shooter's Hill, than the aſcendant of the ſame called Blackeheath Hill, was pitched a pavilion of rich cloth of gold, and diverſe other tents and pavilions, in which were made fiers and perfumes for hir, and ſuch ladies as were appointed to receive hir. And from the tents to the parke gate of Greenwich, all the buſhes and furs were cut downe, and a large open waie made for the ſhew of all perſons. And firſt, next to the parke pale on the eaſt ſide ſtood the merchants of the Stilliard, &c. &c. About twelve of the clocke hir Grace, with all the companie which were of hir owne nation, to the amount of an hun-

dred horſſe, accompanied with the Duke of Norfolke, &c. came down Shooter's Hill towards the tents, and a good ſpace from the tents met hir the Earl of Rutland, appointed Lord Chamberlain to hir Grace.—When hir Grace underſtood that the King was come, ſhe came foorth of her tent, and at the doore thereof, being ſet on a beautiful horſſe richlie trained, ſhe rode foorth towards the King, who perceiving hir to approach, came forward beyond the croſſe on Blackeheath, and there ſtaied till ſhe came neere."——*Chron.* vol. III. p. 948.

On the ſouth ſide of Blackheath lies the village of Lee; at the eaſt ſide of which, next Lee Green, are the pleaſant houſe and gardens of Henry Pelham, Eſq. and in the ſtreet of Lee are the houſes of the Hon. Henry Roper, of David Papillon, Eſq. of Acryſe, in Eaſt Kent, and of ſeveral other perſons of faſhion. On the north ſide of the ſtreet, is an old ſeat of the Boone family, with the remains of a grove, and a piece of water in the ground adjoining. The ſhorteſt road from London to Maidſtone is through Lee village. Between the pariſhes of Lee, Eltham, and Chiſlehurſt, is an hamlet, called Modingham, in which is a ſmall ſeat of the Right Hon. Lord Apſley, with pleaſant grounds about it; the beauty of the whole is owing to his Lordſhip's improvements; here is alſo a very old manſion, which belonged to the ancient family of the Stoddards. Between the village of Lee, and the ſummit of the hill, next Blackheath, are the elegant gardens and pleaſure grounds belonging to Miſs Fludyer, daughter and heireſs of the late Sir Thomas Fludyer. The houſe is not large, but hath a very handſome apartment on the firſt floor, towards the gardens and pleaſure-grounds; and the proſpects

pects from these rooms to Shooter's Hill, Eltham, Lee village, and into the late Sir Gregory Page's grounds and park, with the woods of Greenwich Park skirting the view to the north, are most picturesque and beautiful. The front of the house commands the Dulwich hills, with Lewisham church placed in the centre of the view below them.

On the summit of the hill next the heath, stands the ancient church of Lee. The church-yard is neat, much ornamented with costly monuments of statuary and black marble: which one is sorry to see exposed to all the inclemency of the open air and winter storms. The great astronomer Dr. Edmund Halley lies buried here under a plain table-tomb, with an inscription of some length in Latin. In the church, on the north side of the communion table, is a stately arched monument of alabaster, supported with columns of grey marble, of the Corinthian order. The Rectory-house, and that of Thomas Edlyne, Esq. on the eminence near the church, command from every side of them very pleasing views, the adjacent grounds being highly improved, and the near and distant prospects enriched with seats, farm-houses, towns, and villages; the Kentish and Dulwich hills in the front, Blackheath and Greenwich Park behind; with an extensive view over London and Westminster, of the Middlesex hills, which bound the horizon to the north-west. The manor of Lee came from the last Earl of Rockingham to Lord Sondes.

Upon the declivity of Blackheath next Lewisham, is the Grammar-school. It was founded in the last century by Abraham Colfe, vicar of Lewisham, as a free-school, for the benefit of the several parishes in the hundred of Blackheath. It is now, and hath been long since, a considerable

ſiderable boarding-ſchool, preſerving at the ſame time the original inſtitution. The munificent founder gave ſeven exhibitions, of 10l. per annum each, for ſcholars from this ſchool at either univerſity; and, in default of claimants from Lewiſham ſchool, from the adjacent hundred, and from the members of the company of Leatherſellers in London, he directed theſe exhibitions to be filled up by ſcholars from King's School, Canterbury; and from Chriſt's Hoſpital, London, alternately. But the Leatherſellers company, who are the patrons of the ſchool, and poſſeſſed of the eſtates bequeathed by Mr. Colfe, have, for near thirty years paſt, refuſed to admit the claim of either, and have totally ſunk the 70l. a year, alledging a failure in their eſtate. As they have aſſerted this, we muſt imagine it to be ſo, although moſt eſtates in the neighbourhood of London have riſen in value within that time; but how they are empowered to load one branch of Mr. Colfe's charity with the whole failure, does not appear; or that the ſchools of Chriſt's Hoſpital and Canterbury have not as juſt a right to ſhare his liberality in the laſt place, as Lewiſham in the firſt; eſpecially as he aſſigns this reaſon, Becauſe his father was educated at Chriſt's Hoſpital, and himſelf born at Canterbury. He foreſaw (what has ſince happened) that Lewiſham ſchool might not produce enough to fill all his exhibitions, and added two ſchools, which he judged might at all times ſupply its deficiencies. *See* Gostling's *Walk, 2d edit.* p. 385. Mr. Colfe was, in other inſtances, a benefactor, and particularly ſettled an Engliſh Free-ſchool near the church, for the children belonging to that pariſh. The miller on Blackheath pays to the poor five dozen of bread, yearly, on Midlent Sunday, for the ground whereon the mill ſtands.

At

At the north-eaſt corner of the heath, and almoſt joining to Maiz Hill, are Vanbrugh's Fields, ſo called from Sir John Vanbrugh, who erected upon this ſpot ſome buildings of a peculiar taſte, for they are deſigned to reſemble a fortification, with towers, battlements, and other military appearances. There is alſo a gateway of a like conſtruction, under which you paſs in your approach to them. One of theſe whimſical houſes was lately the reſidence of Lord Tyrawley, who ſold it to Mr. Charles Brett, the preſent poſſeſſor. Beyond Vanbrugh's Buildings is Weſtcombe, a houſe, with a paddock and delightful gardens, commanding a very extenſive proſpect over the Thames into Middleſex and Eſſex. It was one of the ſeats of the Marquis of Lothian, but was lately inhabited by Lord Clive.

The manor of Weſtcombe formerly belonged to that ingenious hiſtorian and antiquary, William Lambard, Eſq. who was a Bencher of the Society of Lincoln's-Inn, a Maſter in Chancery, Keeper of the Rolls and Records in the Tower, and belonged to the Alienation-office under Queen Elizabeth. To the memory and name of her Majeſty, he founded and endowed a college for the poor at Greenwich; but is more generally known for being the Author of many learned works; and he deſerves particular attention in this Tour, becauſe by him was written the firſt Deſcription, or, as he himſelf terms it, *Perambulation of the County of Kent*. He died at Weſtcombe, Auguſt 10, 1601, and was buried at Greenwich, where a handſome mural monument of white marble was erected to his memory, and that of his ſon, Sir Malton Lambard. Upon taking down the old church, this monument was placed in Sevenoake church, at the charge of the late Thomas Lambard, Eſq. the next in deſcent,

deſcent, with an additional inſcription, mentioning the reaſon of its being removed.

On the eaſt of the heath, cloſe to the late Sir Gregory Page's park, is Morden College, ſo denominated by the founder Sir John Morden, a Turky merchant, who alſo endowed it with a real, copyhold, and perſonal eſtate, to the value of about 1300l. a year. During his life, he placed in it twelve decayed Turky merchants; but after his deceaſe, in 1708, Lady Morden reduced the number to four, finding that the ſhare allotted her by her huſband's laſt will was inſufficient for her decent ſupport. Upon her death in 1721, the whole profits of the eſtate being veſted in one college, the number was augmented. There are at preſent thirty-five, but the houſe will conveniently hold forty. It conſiſts of a large brick building, with two ſmall wings, ſtrengthened at the corners with ſtone ruſtic, having an inward ſquare, ſurrounded with piazzas. Seven Turky merchants have the direction of this college, and the ſurvivors of them are to chuſe others of the ſame company, upon any vacancy by death: or, if at any time hereafter there ſhould be a failure in the Turky company, then the election of the ſeven truſtees is to be made out of the Eaſt India Company, of which the founder was alſo a member; and in caſe of a failure in that company, a further proviſion is made for perpetuating the truſt. The truſtees have the nomination of all the perſons to be admitted into the college; no perſon is however eligible, who is under fifty years of age, and reſidence is particularly required. They have each 20l. a year, and at firſt wore gowns and badges, but theſe marks of diſtinction are laid aſide. They eat and drink together in one hall, but have each a convenient apartment, with a cellar There is a neat

and

and commodious chapel; the ſalary of the chaplain was originally only 30l. a year, Lady Morden at her death increaſed it to 60l. and he has a houſe appropriated for him. There is alſo an apartment for a treaſurer. John Bennet, Eſq. a kinſman of the founder, who now executes that office. Lady Morden was in other reſpects a benefactor to the college, and as ſhe had fixed a ſtatue of her huſband in a niche over the gate, the truſtees have placed her ſtatue in an adjoining niche. Sir Gregory Page decreed by his will 300l. towards repairing and ornamenting the chapel; in which, under the altar, the founder is interred.—Of the burial of another Turky merchant near the college, there is the following anecdote in *Bibliothec. Topog. Britann.* No. IX. p. 32.—"Thomas Cooke, Eſq. of Stoke Newington, in Middleſex, died there Auguſt 12, 1752. He was a Turky merchant, many years in the commiſſion of the peace for that county, and Governor of the Bank in 1737, 8, and 9, where his name is probably ſtill remembered; for he made a preſent of 1000l. a year to the clerks. By his own direction, he, after his deceaſe, was carried to Morden College, of which he was a truſtee; there he was taken out of his coffin, (which was laid by for the uſe of the firſt penſioner that might need it) and ſet upright in the earth cloſe to a ſtyle, *very near* the college."

Morden College is in the pariſh of Charlton, a village ſituated to the north of Blackheath, and near the ſix mile ſtone. Sir Adam Newton, who died in 1629, empowered his executors to enlarge and beautify the church of Charlton; and, by a faithful performance of his will, they made it one of the neateſt pariſh churches in the county. This gentleman was one of the preceptors

tors and ſecretary to Henry, eldeſt ſon of King James; and after the death of that promiſing youth, was made treaſurer to Charles, Prince of Wales, and his ſecretary for that diſtrict. He was inſtalled Dean of Durham, 17th of September, 1606, and held that dignity till the year 1620, when he reſigned it, as Anthony Wood ſuggeſted, for a ſum of money. In ſupport of this diſreputable aſperſion, the laborious biographer has referred to a MS. memorandum of his own; but it ſhould be conſidered, that Mr. Wood had his prejudices, and that he has been charged, upon probable grounds, "with caſting bad characters upon good men." King James, who created Sir Adam Newton a baronet, granted to him alſo the manor of Charlton. The ſtately manſion, which is viſible from the road, was built by him. In a letter to his brother-in-law, Sir Thomas Puckering, written a few months after the death of the Prince of Wales, Mr. Newton thus expreſſes himſelf:—"I am even loth at this preſent to touch upon that ſtring, and to renew that grief, whereof you cannot but have your part; though being ſo far from the daily objects, you may more eaſily bear it out, though not digeſt it. If my own building (at Charlton) were to begin again, I would be adviſed; but now it is no time to repent. If I have no Court employment, I will make it *Nidum Senectutis*, and make the beſt uſe I can of my former obſervations."—"On the death of Fulk Grevill, Lord Brook, on the 30th of September, 1628, Sir Adam Newton ſucceeded that nobleman in the place of Secretary to the Marches of Wales, worth 2000l. a year, the reverſion of which had been granted to him; but he did not enjoy that poſt long, dying on the 13th of January, 1729-30."—*Dr.* BIRCH's *Life of Henry, Prince of Wales*, p. 371, &c.

The

The manſion above-mentioned is a long ſtructure, in the Gothic ſtyle, with four turrets on the top. In the dining-room of this houſe, according to Dr. Plot, there was formerly a marble chimney-piece ſo exquiſitely poliſhed, that the Lord of Downe could ſee in it a robbery committed on Shooter's Hill, and upon this diſcovery the ſervants were ſent out, who apprehended the robber. Before the court-yard of this houſe is a row of cypreſs trees, which ſeem to be of great age, and are perhaps the oldeſt in England; beyond theſe is a ſmall park, which joins to Woolwich Common.

This eſtate is, in right of his wife, now veſted in Sir Thomas Spencer Wilſon, of Eaſt Bourne, in the county of Suſſex, Baronet, late one of the repreſentatives in parliament for that county. At the time of the general ſuppreſſion of the religious houſes, the manor of Charlton was part of the poſſeſſions of the monaſtery of Bermondſey, near Southwark, one of the priors of which convent obtained from King Henry III. a grant for a weekly market, with a fair yearly, upon the eve of Trinity Sunday, and two days after. The former has been diſuſed for upwards of a century, and the latter tranſferred to St. Luke's day. The diſcontinuance of the fair would be a public utility; for, from its being held at ſo ſmall a diſtance from the metropolis, it is generally made the ſcene of diſſipation and riot, by the London apprentices and ſervants. Horn fair is the common title, and though very many of its frequenters exhibit upon their "poor no heads" the vulgar and ridiculous alluſion to an ill-fated huſband, there can be little doubt of its having got this denomination from its being formerly a great mart for all ſorts of inſtruments and veſſels made with horn. Tradition indeed aſcribes the origin of

this fair to King John, who being hunting near Charlton, and ſeparated from his attendants, entered a cottage, the miſtreſs of which was very handſome, whom he debauched. Being detected by the huſband, he was obliged to make him compenſation, by a grant of the land from this place to Cuckold's Point; and he, at the ſame time, eſtabliſhed a fair.

The ſeat of the late Sir Gregory Page, now nearly pulled down, is at the ſouth-eaſt extremity of Blackheath, and in eleven months was this ſtately and elegant manſion raiſed from the *foundation*, and *covered in*. Two cauſes are aſſigned for the amazing expedition with which ſo large a fabric was erected—one, that the Baronet is reported to have been allowed the liberty of uſing a ſufficient quantity of materials prepared at Greenwich for the buildings intended to be added to that hoſpital; and the other, that Sir Gregory could purchaſe ſtones out of the ſame quarry from which the governors of that charitable inſtitution expected to be ſupplied, when they, for a very obvious reaſon, could not procure them. And the fact is certain, that the works at the hoſpital were ſuſpended during the whole year that the manſion upon Blackheath was building. The houſe conſiſted of a baſement, ſtate, and Attic ſtory. In the wings were the offices and ſtables, which joined to the houſe by a colonade. An Ionic portico of four columns, but without a pediment, adorned the ſouth front. The park and gardens without, and the maſterly paintings, rich hangings, marbles, and alto relievos within this houſe, commanded the attention of every perſon of genius and taſte. Sir Gregory died the 4th of Auguſt, 1775, and left this ſeat, with a very ample fortune, to his nephew Sir Gregory Turner, of Ambroſden, in Oxfordſhire, who,

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in compliance with his uncle's requeſt, has taken the name and arms of Page. This magnificent ſeat was lately purchaſed by John Cator, Eſq. of Beckenham, for 22,550l. who, not being able to ſell the ſame to his ſatisfaction, in the year 1787 advertiſed the materials to be ſold by auction, in different lots; in conſequence of which the houſe has been ſtripped of its interior beauties; and, what was ſome years ſince a manſion fit for kings, now appears to the traveller a maſs of ruins.

The origin of this ſplendid manſion was owing to the ſucceſs of the South Sea year in 1720. Sir Gregory Page, then a minor, under the direction of two guardians, and having then a large property in South Sea Stock, one of the guardians was for ſelling out when at the higheſt; the other being of a contrary opinion, they agreed to refer it to a third perſon, who decided for ſelling out. The ſtock was luckily ſold out (juſt before the burſting of the bubble) which amounted to 200,000l.

Woolwich lies on the north ſide of the road, and about two miles from the ſeven mile ſtone. The church of this pariſh, which has been built about fifty years, is a handſome brick edifice, placed on an eminence In former times, Woolwich ſeems to have been but a ſmall fiſhing village, owing probably to the lowneſs of its ſituation, and the overflowings of the river before it was imbanked. There has been, for upwards of two centuries, a royal dock-yard at this place, in which are employed about the ſame number of workmen as at Deptford; and it is, like Deptford, under the immediate direction of the Navy Board. This is ſaid to be the moſt ancient naval arſenal in England; or, as the learned Camden expreſſes it, to have a right, by ſeniority, to the title of

Mother Dock to all the King's Yards. As a proof of it, he mentions the ſhip, Harry Grace de Dieu, having been built here as early as the 3d of Henry VIII. on July 3d, 1539. Queen Elizabeth honoured this place with her preſence at the launching of a fine ſhip, called by her own name Elizabeth.

On the eaſtern, or lower part of the town is the Gun Park, in which are great quantities of cannon and mortars, of all ſizes and dimenſions; and ſo diſtinguiſhed is this arſenal, that there has been depoſited here, at one time, between 7 and 8000 pieces of ordnance, beſides mortars and ſhells almoſt innumerable. The ordnance forms a conſiderable part of the buſineſs tranſacted for Government at this place. Under the military branch is the Warren, where artillery, of all kinds and dimenſions, are caſt, and frequently proved before the principal engineers and officers of the Board of Ordnance, at which many of the nobility and gentry often attend. The gunpowder, purchaſed by contract, is here proved, as to its ſtrength and goodneſs. Here alſo is a laboratory, where the matroſſes are employed in the compoſition of fire-works and cartridges, and in charging bombs, carcaſes, grenadoes, &c. for public ſervice. A Royal Academy is here eſtabliſhed, under the Board of Ordnance, for the inſtructing and qualifying of young gentlemen, intended as candidates for the office of engineer in the military branch of that office: theſe are called Cadets, and are appointed by that Board. They are taught in it the principles and art of fortification, and every branch of military ſcience relating thereto, with the French and Latin tongues, writing, fencing, and drawing. They are under the immediate direction of a governor,

vernor, lieutenant-governor, and maſters, in each reſpective branch of ſcience and literature.

A part of the pariſh of Woolwich lies on the Eſſex ſhore. The cauſe of this diſunion cannot be aſcertained; but that the river might be diverted out of its ancient channel, after a flood, is no improbable ſuppoſition. In the 17th of Edward II. a commiſſion of ſewers was iſſued for repairing a very great breach made by the overflowing of the Thames into the marſhes between Woolwich and Greenwich; but if it was an inundation that occaſioned the ſeparation of the land above-mentioned, there is ſufficient reaſon to conclude it was of an earlier date. Harris relates his having ſeen an old MS. which ſet the number of acres at 500, and noticed a few houſes and a chapel of eaſe. At high water, the Thames is about a mile broad at Woolwich, and the water brackiſh. As the channel lies direct eaſt and weſt for about three miles, the tide is ſtrong; and the river being free from ſhoals and ſands, and ſeven or eight fathoms deep, the largeſt ſhips may at all hours ride here with ſafety.

One mile to the ſouth of the main road is the town of Eltham, ſituated upon an eminence. Anthony Beck, biſhop of Durham, and patriarch of Jeruſalem, having fraudulently ſecured the poſſeſſion of this manor, either rebuilt, or repaired and beautified the capital manſion, and gave it to the crown, reſerving to himſelf only a life eſtate in it. The ſtone work of the outer gate, being caſtle-like, is a remnant of the work of the age in which that prelate lived; but the palace itſelf is in a more modern ſtyle of building. This biſhop died at Eltham March 8, 1311, and after his deceaſe King Edward II. frequently reſided in this palace. His Queen Iſabel was here delivered of a ſon, who, from the place

of his birth, acquired the name of John of Eltham. Poſſibly from this circumſtance, this houſe has been, and ſtill is, improperly King John's Palace, unleſs it ſhould have got this appellation from the ſumptuous entertainment given here by King Edward III. to his captive monarch John of France. King Henry VII. built the fair front towards the moat, but this palace was neglected after Greenwich became the favourite country habitation of his ſucceſſors. Our princes often celebrated the feſtivals at Eltham with great pomp and expence. One of the laſt of theſe feaſts was held here at Whitſuntide, 1515, when King Henry VIII. created Sir Edward Stanley Baron Monteagle. Philipot has ſuggeſted this ceremony to have been performed by King Henry VII. but he was miſtaken; for this honour was conferred on this valiant Knight for his ſervices at Flodden Field. In this battle Sir Edward commanded the rear of the Engliſh army, and by the power of his archers forced the Scots to deſcend the hill, which occaſioning them to open their ranks, gave the firſt hopes of that day's victory. COLLINS's *Peerage*, Vol. II. Part I. p. 31. The ſtately hall, which was the ſcene of theſe feaſts, is ſtill in tolerable preſervation, and affords a ſtriking memorial of the vanity of all human grandeur; for, a part of the room which was formerly decorated with the moſt coſtly furniture, is now a lodge for carts and other implements of huſbandry; and another corner of an apartment, which might boaſt of having given to nobles, princes, and kings, entertainments ſo ſplendid as to claim a remembrance in the annals of our country, is now a repoſitory of hay and ſtraw for the farmers cattle. A portion of the manor of Eltham was granted by King Charles II. to Sir John Shaw, Bart. for his firm attachment to the royal cauſe

cauſe during the preceding civil wars. He, by purchaſe, became ſole proprietor of the remainder; and the whole is now held under leaſe from the crown by his worthy great grandſon, Sir John Shaw, whoſe elegant ſeat and plantations do honour to the taſte of that polite gentleman. The ſtreet of Eltham conſiſts chiefly in houſes belonging to families of genteel faſhion. On the north ſide of the town is a range of fine meadows, which were much improved by their late poſſeſſor, the Rev. Dr. Pinnell, whoſe handſome garden opens into them. There is in it a green-houſe, in which were kept the exotics of that eminent botaniſt, Dr. Sherrard. The "Hortus Elthamenſis" is well known to the curious in botanical ſcience. The church contains ſome ancient monuments.

Near the ſeven mile ſtone, on an eminence on the right hand of Shooter's Hill, is a triangular brick building, erected by Lady James, to the memory of Sir William James, her huſband, late in the ſervice of the Hon. Eaſt India Company; its ſingular appearance excites the attention of every traveller, and may be ſeen at the diſtance of many miles round this part of the country.

The eight mile ſtone is now placed near the ſummit of Shooter's Hill. In a field, on the north ſide of the weſtern aſcent, and at a very ſmall diſtance from the road, a plan was formed a few years ſince, for building a large town: a few houſes were erected and finiſhed, but the greatneſs of the undertaking, and the inability of thoſe who engaged in it, fruſtrated the deſign; and it is not likely that the ſcheme will ſoon be revived. From the ſummit of this eminence, the traveller has a view of the cities of London and Weſtminſter, and may extend his proſpects not only to very many places in the county

of

of Kent, but into Eſſex, Surry, and Suſſex. The Thames alſo preſents a rich and grand appearance; and for more than thirty miles, this river, or the Medway, with all their navigation, contribute much to the pleaſantneſs of the road. To Shooter's Hill, King Henry VIII. and his Queen Catherine are recorded to have come in great ſplendour from Greenwich on May-day; and were received by two hundred archers clad in green, with one perſonating Robin Hood as their captain, who ſhewed his Majeſty their exquiſite ſkill in the uſe of bows and arrows.

Some have conjectured that this hill took its name from its having formerly been frequented by thieves, who, from the adjoining woods, ſhot at paſſengers, and then plundered them; and it cannot be denied that this has, in all ages, been deemed a convenient ſpot for taking of purſes. But might not the term, Shooters, be given to this eminence, becauſe the archers here practiſed this branch of military ſcience? Attempts have been made at different times to render the paſſage over this hill more eaſy and ſecure. For this purpoſe, an order was iſſued ſo long ſince as the 6th of Richard II. to enlarge the highway, according to a ſtatute of Edward I. And with the ſame intent, King Henry IV. granted leave for the taking down, and ſelling all the woods and underwoods contiguous to Shooter's Hill on the ſouth ſide, and the money thence ariſing was to be applied in repairing the highway. It continued, however, to be narrow, hollow, and ſteep, till the year 1739, when, by the judicious direction of the commiſſioners of the turnpike, a new road was formed of a conſiderable width, and the declivity of the hill abated, to the ſatisfaction and advantage of every paſſenger. The courſe of the old road,

which

which is ſtill viſible, was a little to the north of the new cut, and in ſome parts ſerves as a drain to it.

Plumſtead is, on the eaſt, the adjoining pariſh to Woolwich, and through it is a high road to Erith, ſeparating the marſhes from the upland. The ſouthern part of Plumſtead, which is hilly, and much covered with wood, reaches to the Dover road, taking into its bounds the whole north ſide of Shooter's Hill.

Near the tenth mile ſtone, is Welling, or Well-end, as it was formerly called; and, according to Mr. Haſted, thus properly denominated, from the ſafe arrival of the traveller at it, after having eſcaped the danger of robbers through the hazardous road from Shooter's Hill. The ſouth ſide of this ſmall village is in the pariſh of Eaſt Wickham, ſo ſtyled to diſtinguiſh it from Weſt Wickham, near Bromley. The ſmall church in Eaſt Wickham is not more than a mile from Welling, and is to be ſeen from the road. Anciently it was only a chapel of eaſe to Plumſtead; and though it has for many years been a ſeparate pariſh, no inſtance occurs, in which the ſame clergyman has not been the incumbent of both churches. The corn tythes of Eaſt Wickham are a part of the poſſeſſions of the hoſpital, which Sir John Hawkins, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, founded at Chatham for the relief of decayed mariners and ſhipwrights.

At a ſmall diſtance from Welling, on the ſouth ſide of the road, is Danſon Hill, on which ſtands the ſeat of Sir John Boyd, Baronet. The original deſign for this ſtructure was given by the late ingenious Mr. Taylor, well known for the great works executed by him at the Bank; but ſeveral alterations are ſaid to have been made in the plan whilſt the houſe was building. There are, upon the principal floor, three lofty, ſpacious, and elegant apart-

apartments, viz. a dining parlour, a drawing room, and a library. From the diminutive ſize of the windows of the next ſtory, it ſhould ſeem that the architect did not imagine the ſleeping in airy chambers might contribute to the health of the family who inhabit this manſion. Upon this momentous point our forefathers judged differently: however, ſuch is the *ton* of building of the preſent age, and therefore it muſt be right. If the traveller is not ſtraitened for time, it will be worth his while to ride down the road leading to Bexley, to take a view of the grounds behind the houſe, and of a very grand ſheet of water at a little diſtance from it. The diſpoſition of the former is ſtriking and beautiful; and when he has examined the latter, he will not fail to pay a compliment to Mr. Brown's ſuperior ſkill in forming and ſecuring ſo large a piece of water.

Not far from Sir John Boyd's, but on the north ſide of the great turnpike road, is one of the lanes leading to Erith. In the church of this pariſh, in the 17th of King John, a treaty was held between ſeveral commiſſioners, appointed by his Majeſty, and Richard Earl of Clare, and others, on behalf of the diſcontented barons, reſpecting a peace between the king and them; for which purpoſe, the latter had a ſafe conduct, dated November the 9th, in that year. Erith is mentioned by Lambard to have been anciently a corporate town; but from what king it acquired this privilege, and when it ceaſed to enjoy it, cannot be traced. Bartholomew, Lord Badleſmere, a powerful baron, who was poſſeſſed of this manor, certainly obtained from King Edward II. the grant of a weekly market to Erith; this has, however, been long diſcontinued.

On

On the Thames, oppoſite the town of Erith, the Eaſt-India ſhips, in their paſſage up the river, frequently come to an anchor, and lay ſome time there, in order to be lightened of part of their burthen, that they may proceed with greater ſafety. This makes a great reſort to Erith, not only of the friends and acquaintance of the officers and ſeamen belonging to the ſhips, but for ſome continuance afterwards, in the carrying on a traffic between the inhabitants and their country neighbours, for the ſeveral kinds of Eaſt-India commodities which have been procured from on board. This no unprofitable branch of trade, together with the conveyance and delivery of goods to and from London, and a few fiſhing veſſels, employ the generality of the neighbours in this place. Large quantities of corn and wood are yearly ſhipped here, and it ſupplies the country for ſome miles round with coals. The large plantations of fruit trees are alſo a lucrative article to the inhabitants of this pariſh; and the more ſo, as the cherries are obſerved to ripen very early.

Erith is in many ancient writings denominated Leſnes; but this latter was properly only a manor in Erith pariſh, and ſeems to have aſſumed the leading name from the famous abbey of canons regular, ſometimes called Weſtwood, which ſtood upon the demeſnes of the manor of Leſnes. It was ſituated about a mile and three quarters to the weſt of Erith church, in the road leading to Plumſtead and Woolwich. Richard de Lucy, one of the grand juſticiaries of this kingdom, in the reign of King Henry II. was the founder of this religious houſe; a gentleman deſervedly eminent as a ſoldier, a ſtateſman, and a lawyer, which different provinces he executed with fidelity to his prince, and a conſcientious regard to the true intereſts of the nation. The genius of the religion which pre-

prevailed in his time led this wiſe man to build this monaſtic edifice, and to endow it with ample poſſeſſions. It was begun by him not quite two years before his death; and, after he had finiſhed it, he retired from the active world, and, it is ſaid, became the prior of his own convent. The king, unwilling to loſe the counſel and aſſiſtance of ſo able and experienced a ſervant, earneſtly endeavoured to diſſuade him from entering into this idle and uſeleſs ſcheme of life, but it was a vain attempt. Influenced by the ſuperſtitious prejudices of the age, he thought the putting on a monkiſh cowl would render his paſſage to heaven more ſpeedy, and leſs tormenting. And in another inſtance did he likewiſe ſhew himſelf to be a very bigoted papiſt; for he made Thomas Becket, jointly with the virgin Mary, the patron and protector of his new ſociety; though that haughty and ſeditious prelate had formerly excommunicated him, for "being a favourer of his ſovereign, and a contriver of thoſe heretical pravities, the conſtitutions of Clarendon."

Richard de Lucy, his only ſon Godfrey, Biſhop of Wincheſter, and others of the family, were buried in the church belonging to this religious houſe. Some of their tombs and coffins were diſcovered in the year 1630 by workmen employed to dig out ſtones from the rubbiſh of this decayed fabrick; and there was one monument in particular, which, from its being placed in the choir, on the north ſide of the altar, is judged to have been that of the founder. It was forced open, and "within a ſtone coffin, in a ſheet of lead, the remains of an aſhy dry carcaſe lay enwrapped, whole and undisjointed, and upon the head ſome hair, or a *ſimile quiddam* of hair appeared." Such is the deſcription given by WEAVER, (*Ancient Fun. Mon.* p. 777.) who has informed

formed his readers of his not having been the hindmoſt among the great concourſe of people which reſorted to take a view of this venerable relict. By the direction of Sir John Epſley, at that time lord of the manor, the monument was again covered, and he planted a bay tree over it. In 1753, when Dr. Stukeley made his pilgrimage, as he terms it, to this abbey, he thought the tree to be by far the fineſt of the kind he had ever ſeen; but the two principal ſtems of it are ſince periſhed; and from the weakneſs of the root, it is not likely long to put forth any branches to ſerve for a memorial of the place of interment of this once eminent perſonage. Dr. Stukeley was of opinion, that the farm-houſe ſtanding upon the premiſes was the original manſion or ſeat of the founder, in which he and his ſucceſſors the priors, or abbots (as they were generally ſtyled) uſed to reſide; it is however clear, that all the religious buildings were ſituated towards the ſouth of the houſe. Whilſt it was inhabited by the occupier of the land, the area of the church and cloiſters was uſed as a garden, but the cattle now range over this ſpot, as well as the ſite of the offices; and the ruinous north wall of the church, of which the doctor drew a ſketch, (*See Archæolog.* v. I. p. 44.) is much more delapidated. But the boundaries of almoſt the whole precinct may ſtill be traced. This abbey was ſuppreſſed before the general diſſolution of the monaſteries, by the authority of a papal bull, which Cardinal Wolſey had obtained for the appropriating of its revenues towards endowing the new college he had founded at Oxford. William Tiſeherſte, the laſt abbot, ſigned the inſtrument of reſignation, April 1, 1525. and in October following was inſtituted to the rectory of Horſmonden, in the dioceſe of Rocheſter. The manor of Leſnes, with

the appurtenances, was, about the middle of the laſt century, ſettled by a Mr. Hawes, on the hoſpital of St. Bartholomew, London, and that charitable corporation are now poſſeſſed of the eſtate.

Upon the hills above Erith are two heaths of ſome extent; that on the weſt is Leſnes, and the other is ſtyled Northumberland Heath. Upon Leſnes, or, as it is commonly pronounced, Leeſon Heath, is a houſe called Belvidere. The firſt manſion was built here by George Hayley, Eſq. who, after reſiding in it ſome time, paſſed it away by ſale to Frederick Calvert, Lord Baltimore of Ireland. This nobleman died here the 24th of April, 1751, and ſoon after the eſtate was ſold by his deviſee to Sampſon Gideon, Eſq. whoſe ſon, Sir Sampſon Gideon, now Lord Eardley, of the kingdom of Ireland, one of the repreſentatives in parliament for Coventry, is the preſent owner of it. Sir Sampſon lately erected a very large houſe, and the only apartment left of any former manſion is an elegant drawing-room built by his father. The collection of pictures here, though not numerous, is valuable, containing none but original pieces by the greateſt maſters, and ſome of them capital ones. From the point of the hill, upon which the houſe ſtands, is a moſt pleaſing proſpect up the Thames. Mr. Wheatley, of Erith, who ſerved the office of high ſheriff of this county in 1769, has alſo built a ſeat on the north ſide of Northumberland Heath. The plan of the houſe is well calculated for taking in various delightful views both down and up the river, and into the county of Eſſex. But as from its ſituation it is very much expoſed to the north and eaſt, the owner will doubtleſs wait with ſome impatience for the growing up of the clump of trees, which are deſigned to break the violence of the wind

from

from thoſe quarters, as well as to be an ornament to his grounds. Neither of theſe ſeats is viſible from Bexley Heath; but upon the road, about a mile on each ſide of Dartford, the traveller has a diſtinct view of both of them.

To the ſouth of the heath is ſituated a tract of land, judged by many perſons to be the moſt beautifnl ſpot in the county of Kent. It is uſually diſtinguiſhed by the title of The Crays, from the number of pariſhes in it which terminate in that word. There are within this diſtrict ſeveral gentlemen's ſeats, which will draw the attention of the traveller, but a few of them only can be noticed in this conciſe tour. The villa of Benjamin Harence, Eſq. called Footſcray Place, is a ſtriking object. This was built not many years ſince by the late Mr. Bourchier Cleve, a citizen of London; and the plan of it taken from the late Earl of Weſtmoreland's houſe at Mereworth, but it is upon a ſmaller ſcale. His Lordſhip is reported to have adviſed Mr. Cleve not to be afraid of diſfiguring the building by ſhewing the chimnies, which at Mereworth are carried up under the roof, and diſcharge the ſmoke at the dome. The latter muſt be owned to be a ſtyle of building more ornamental, and which may not in Italy be attended with any material inconvenience. But an Engliſh architect ſhould always conſider, that in his climate fires may be comfortable in different apartments for nine months out of the twelve.

Northcray is placed on the other ſide of the river, and adjoining to that church is a large, handſome, and commodious habitation, poſſeſſed by the late Mr. Hetherington. He inherited the eſtate from his brother, Jeffery Hetherington, Eſq. and by his will bequeathed it to the preſent owner, Thomas Coventry, Eſq. Sub

Governor of the South Sea Company. Mr. Hetherington, a few years ſince, preſented 2000l. to Bromley College; and in 1774 eſtabliſhed a fund of 20,000l. for the relief of fifty indigent blind people—marks of a munificent ſpirit, very uncommon in a living donor, and therefore ought to be commemorated. The preſent poſſeſſor has added 10,000l. to the above-mentioned fund, for the ſame laudable purpoſe.

Not above half a mile from Mr. Coventry's, to the left, on the top of a little eminence, is a houſe called Mount Maſcal; the rows of trees on each ſide of it will point it out to the traveller. This manſion, with another eſtate in the pariſh, belonged to Sir Compton Fitch, Bart. and the fee of the greater part is ſtill in the heirs of his family. Sir William Calvert, and Sir Robert Ladbroke, late Aldermen of London, ſucceſſively lived in this houſe; and it is now inhabited by John Madocks, Eſq. of Lincoln's Inn.

The village from whence Bexley Heath hath its name, ſtands below, at a little diſtance from the ſouth-eaſt quarter of it; and the white ſteeple of the church is to be ſeen from the road. Bexley manor was in the poſſeſſion of the celebrated Camden, who bequeathed it for the endowing of a profeſſor of hiſtory in the univerſity of Oxford. This is a very extenſive pariſh, containing divers hamlets, and many perſons of fortune are inhabitants of it. Several ſmall but elegant houſes have been erected here within a very few years; and it is highly probable, that the ſalubrity of the air, with the convenience of its being only thirteen miles from the metropolis, will be a ſtrong inducement to other opulent people to fix their country retreat upon this delightful ſpot. About midway between Bexley and Crayford, but in the

former

former pariſh, is Hall Place, an ancient ſeat, once belonging to the family of the Champneys, and afterwards to that of Auſten. Lord Le Deſpencer is the preſent proprietor, but Miſs Verney reſides in it.

When there is much duſt, and the draught heavy for the horſes, it is not unuſual for travellers, ſoon after they enter upon the heath, to bear rather to the north of the main road: the wind-mill is the point of direction, as it lies very little to the left of the track; by purſuing which, they will likewiſe avoid one hill, and have the further ſatisfaction of paſſing through a ſhady lane that will lead them within a few yards diſtance of May Place; a ſeat ſtill venerable for its antique appearance, but which has ſuſtained a prejudice from an attempt made to give a more modern appearance to ſome part of the building. Sir Cloudeſly Shovel was once the owner of this manſion, and of other conſiderable poſſeſſions in this pariſh. At preſent, a moiety of the eſtate is veſted in Miles Barnes, Eſq. of Suffolk, and the houſe inhabited by Felix Calvert, Eſq. Very little of May Place is to be ſeen from the main road: the ſmart ſaſhed building, which is viſible from the top of the hill leading down into Crayford, is a farm houſe belonging to Mr. Barnes's eſtate, and now in the occupation of the Reverend Mr Willis. The gallant ſea-officer juſt mentioned, who was in the manner of his death only unfortunate, preſented a fine altar-piece to the church of Crayford; and, in the window of the north aiſle of this neat edifice, there was preſerved, not long ſince, and may be ſtill remaining, a good piece of painting on glaſs—the ſubject is Abraham offering up Iſaac.

Some judicious antiquarians have imagined the Roman ſtation, called Noviomagus, to have been ſituated very

near the town of Crayford; nor can the arguments on which they have grounded this opinion be eaſily diſproved. This place is alſo famous for a great battle fought here, in 457, between Hengiſt the Saxon, and Vortimer the Britiſh king, in which the Britons loſt 4000 men, and four of their chief commanders. The rout was ſo general and deciſive, that they left Hengiſt from that time in quiet poſſeſſion of his Kentiſh kingdom. In the open heath, near Crayford, as alſo in the woods and encloſures in moſt of the adjoining pariſhes, are divers artificial caves or holes in the earth, whereof ſome, according to Lambard, are ten, fifteen, or twenty fathoms deep; the paſſage is narrow at the top, but wide and large at the bottom, with ſeveral rooms or partitions in ſome of them, and all ſtrongly vaulted, and ſupported by pillars of chalk. Many learned writers have ſuppoſed, that theſe were dug by our anceſtors, to be uſed as receptacles for their goods, and as places of retreat and ſecurity for their families in times of civil diſſentions and foreign invaſions. But the much more probable opinion is, that far the greater number of them were opened in order to procure chalk for building, and for the amendment of lands. Crayford was ſo denominated from its being the principal place of paſſage through the Cray, a river which gives its name alſo to four other pariſhes. It riſes at Newel, in Orpington, from whence it takes its courſe by St. Mary-cray, St. Paul's cray, Foot's-cray, North-cray, Bexley, and Crayford; and a little below this town it meets the river Darent. Lambard remarks, that "upon the Cray was lately builded a mill, for the making of plates, whereof armour is faſhioned;" this was probably the ſame with the mill now uſed for ſlitting and flatting iron to make hoops, &c. In the 20th year of

the

the reign of Richard II. William Courteney, Archbiſhop of Canterbury, obtained from that king the grant of a market to this town on Tueſday in every week; but this privilege has been long diſcontinued.

The diſtance between Crayford and Dartford is two miles, and ſome part of the road being upon an eminence, there is from it a diſtinct view of the magazine at Purfleet. Near the ſummit of Dartford Hill, on the ſouth ſide of the road, is a wide lane, called Shepherd's Lane, leading to Dartford Heath, which is ſuppoſed to be the largeſt tract of land in Kent that is ſo denominated. On the ſouth-weſt extremity of the heath, Baldwins is ſituated, the elegant ſeat of Simon Frazer, Eſq. and by his garden wall runs the road to Bexley, to the Crays, to Chiſlehurſt, and to Bromley; which laſt town is ten miles diſtant from Dartford.

If the ſubdiviſion of counties into hundreds owes its origin to King Alfred, (and to that illuſtrious monarch our hiſtorians have, with reaſon, attributed this uſeful and political plan) Dartford has, probably for many ages, been a place of ſome note, ſince it gave its name to the hundred in which it is ſituated. The town itſelf derives its appellation from the river Darent. The chief paſſage, formerly through the ſtream, but now over it, into the eaſtern parts of the county, was at this place. It is not agreed, whether the Darent took its riſe at Squerries, near Weſtram, in Kent, or at Titſey, in Surry, becauſe a ſpring in both theſe pariſhes is contributory to it. Afterwards the river runs to Braſted, to Sundridge, and to Otford; but between Braſted and Otford it receives five ſmall ſtreams. From Otford, the courſe of the river is to Shoreham, to Lullingſtone, to Eynsford, to Horton Kirby, to Sutton at Hone, to Darent,

rent, and to Dartford. According to Leland, the term Darent ſignifies, in the Britiſh language, a clear water; and Spenſer, in his famous poem, in which he mentions the rivers attending on the Thames, celebrates the tranſparent property of this river—

And the ſtill Darent, in whoſe waters clean,
Ten thouſand fiſhes play, and deck his pleaſant ſtream.

The thouſands of fiſhes with which the Darent is ſtored, is one branch of the poet's encomium. Had the Cray been his theme, he probably would have particularly diſtinguiſhed, not the quantity, but the quality of of theſe watery animals; and in that river, as well as in the Thames, might we have read of—

Swift trouts, diverſify'd with crimſon ſtains.

Nor can it be denied, that the trout of the Cray are far ſuperior to thoſe of the Darent, with reſpect to colour, and conſequently to flavour; an excellency that ought not to have been unnoticed in the deſcription of that beautiful vale.

A little below Dartford Bridge, the Darent becomes navigable for barges; and, at the diſtance of about two miles, receives the Cray into its channel; but when it has paſſed the town, it is no more a clear ſtream, and ceaſes to be ſtyled a river; and, within two miles after its union with the Cray, diſembogues itſelf into the Thames, under the degrading appellation of Dartford Creek. This mark of debaſement was not caſt upon it when Spenſer wrote his poem, Lambard his Perambulation, and Camden his Britannia; but is now fixed by uſage.

The

The Darent is not the only ſtream that paſſes through Dartford. A ſmall brook, which riſes at Hawley, ſomewhat more than a mile to the ſouth of the town, croſſes it near the Bull Inn. It is commonly called the Crampit, but the Cranford is its proper name. Beyond the church runs the Darent, and the commodious bridge built over it, repaired at the expence of the county. When a bridge was firſt erected is not mentioned. It appears, however, by an inquiſition, taken in the 4th of Edward III. after the death of Edmund Earl of Woodſtock, that there was no bridge here at that time; the paſſage over this river being valued among the rents of the manor at 13s. 4d. And it is no leſs evident, that there was a bridge in the year 1455, becauſe an hermit is recorded to have lived at the foot of it. This kind of beggars, as is well known, generally choſe their ſtations near ſome frequented road, or paſſage of a river, from a politic motive. Thomas Blonde, the name of the hermit who had his cell upon this ſpot, ſeems to have found it turn to his advantage; at leaſt, he did not die neceſſitous; ſince an executor and adminiſtrator appeared in the Biſhop's Court to deliver an account of his effects.

In the return of the ſurvey made of the ſeveral places in this county, where there were any ſhipping, boats, or the like, by order of Queen Elizabeth, in the 8th year of her reign, Dartford is mentioned to contain houſes inhabited 182; perſons lacking habitations 6; keys or landing places 4; ſhips and boats 7; viz. three of 3 tons, one of 6, two of 10; and one of 15. Perſons for carriage, from Dartford to London, and ſo back again, 14. Sir Thomas Walſingham is likewiſe noticed as ſteward of the town; and Mr. Aſteley keeper of the Queen's houſe. HASTED's *Hiſtory*, p. 225.

Upon

Upon that part of the river Darent which runs through Dartford pariſh there are five mills; viz. a ſawing mill, (which was formerly an iron mill) two corn mills, a paper mill, and one for making gunpowder. In 1590, Godfrey Box, of Leigh, built, a little below the church, the firſt mill in this kingdom for ſlitting of iron into bars, and drawing it into wires; and it appears by the records of the ſewers, that ſoon after the death of Charles I. John Brown erected a brazil mill below the bridge, for ſlitting iron bars into nail-rods, &c. (HASTED, *ibid.*) He probably only rebuilt the original mill, and that now ſtanding upon the ſame ſpot is ſtill applied to the like uſes.

The Priory of Dartford was poſſeſſed of two water mills, one called the Wheat Mill, and the other the Water Mill, which both belonged to the manor of Poſtbridge, otherwiſe Bignors; the exact ſcite of them is not aſcertained, but perhaps they ſtood where the preſent corn mills are ſituated. The paper mill, which ſtands not above half a mile to the ſouth of the town, ſuppoſed to have been the firſt of the kind in the kingdom, was erected by John Spilman, a perſon of German extraction, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; and among the Harleian MSS. is the docquet of a licence, dated Feb. 17, 31 Eliz. to John Spilman, there ſtyled her Majeſty's jeweller, for the ſole gathering, for ten years, of all rags, &c. neceſſary for the making of writing paper. He was continued in the office of jeweller to King James, who conferred upon him the honour of knighthood, and granted to him the manor of Bexley. Sir John Spilman is ſaid to have brought over with him in his portmanteau two lime trees, which he planted here. One of them being periſhed, was grubbed up about twenty years ago; the

the other has lately met the ſame fate. It ſtood at a very little diſtance from the principal wheels of the powder mills, not long ſince purchaſed by Meſſrs. Andrews and Pigou.

The ſuppoſition, however, that the paper mill at Dartford was the firſt of the kind in England, is a miſtake. Paper, made at Hertford, was uſed in a book printed about the year 1494. John Tate, jun. was the maker; and it is thought that his mill was what is now Sele Mill, at the Stevenage end of the town; where a meadow adjoining to it has ſtill the name of Paper Mill Mead.

Thomas Churchyard inſcribed to Sir Walter Raleigh a Tract, entitled, *A Spark of Friendſhip and Warm Good-will; with a Poem concerning the Commodity of ſeveral Sciences; eſpecially concerning Paper and a Paper Mill, lately ſet up by a High German, called Mr. Spilman, Jeweller to the Queen's Majeſty.*——The following lines are from Churchyard:

One *Thirlby* went Ambaſſador from hence,
To *Charles* the Fift, an Emperor of great fame;
And, at return, did bring with him from thence,
A learned man, *Remigius* by name;
Who *Thirlby* lovde, and made, by his deviſe,
A Paper Mill, but not ſo much in price,
As this that nowe neere *Darthford* ſtandeth well,
Where *Spill-man* may himſelfe, and houſehold dwell.

—— Caryll, editor of the Pſalmes from the Vulgat, 12mo. Paris 1700, was created Lord Dartford, by the Pretender.

Some occurrences of a public nature are recorded by the writers of the Hiſtory of England to have happened

in

in this parish. In 1215, Robert Fitzwilliam being sent by the Barons to relieve Rochester Castle, at that time besieged by King John, arrived with his army at Dartford, and was discouraged from proceeding any further by the deceitful representation of a gentleman of the order of the Templars. The general was, it seems, more cautious than valiant; and the timidity of his disposition was discovered by the person, of whom he desired intelligence concerning the strength of the king's forces, and who therefore exaggerated the power of the king, and his tale had the desired effect; for Fitzwilliam retreated, and by his pusillanimity the governor of the castle was obliged to surrender at discretion to his incensed sovereign. In 1452, the first army raised by Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, in order to maintain his just pretensions to the crown, was assembled upon a large plain near this town. It consisted of 10,000 men; but when the duke heard that King Henry VI. lay at Blackheath with a body of troops superior to his own in numbers, as well as discipline, he politicly avoided a battle that might at once prove fatal to his claim.

This parish is likewise reported to have been the scene of two transactions, of a different kind from those abovementioned. In this town, in 1235, the marriage of Isabel, sister of King Henry III. to the Emperor Frederick, was solemnized by proxy, the Archbishop of Cologn having been sent over to demand, for such is the uncourtly term used upon these occasions, this princess for his august master. And at Dartford, probably upon the Brent (of which further notice will hereafter be taken) King Edward III. on his return from France in 1331, proclaimed the holding of a tournament. From these two instances there is reason to conclude, that our kings had

had ſome palace, or convenient manſion, at Dartford; and it appears upon record, that in the ſecond year of Edward III. what was entitled the barony of the vill was in the crown. The manor houſe was afterwards converted by the ſame king into a nunnery, conſiſting of a prioreſs, and fourteen ſiſters, of the order of St. Auguſtin. He alſo amply endowed his new erected foundation; and by the gifts of many other benefactors, the poſſeſſions of it were ſo large as to be valued at upwards of 400l. per year at the time of its diſſolution. Several ladies of high rank were ſuperiors of this convent, and particularly Bridget, the fourth daughter of King Edward IV. is mentioned to have died prioreſs, and to have been interred in the chapel belonging to it. Henry VIII. at a conſiderable expence, made this houſe a fit manſion for himſelf and his ſucceſſors; and Queen Elizabeth is mentioned to have reſided in her palace at Dartford two days, when ſhe returned from her progreſs through great part of Suſſex and Kent, in 1573. The manor, with all its appurtenances, was granted by King James I. to Robert Earl of Saliſbury, but at that time the houſe was ſomewhat ruinous, and it has for many years been the habitation of the tenant of the demeſne lands. The ingenious Mr. Groſe, in his Antiquities of England and Wales, has exhibited a View of the remains of this building, and has ſubjoined to the print an account of the preſent ſtate of it, communicated to him by John Thorpe, Eſq. of Bexley. As this may be of uſe to the traveller, ſhould he be at liberty to ſurvey this once famous edifice, a long extract from the letter is here inſerted—

" Of Dartford Nunnery there remains only a fine " gateway, and ſome contiguous building now uſed as

" a farm-houſe; the gateway is now a ſtable for the
" farmers horſes, and over it is a large room, ſerving,
" I ſuppoſe, for a hay-loft. The ſcite of the abbey was
" where the farmer's garden and ſtack-yard now are;
" it muſt have been a vaſt pile of building, and, doubt-
" leſs, very noble, ſuitable to ſuch great perſonages as
" were members of it, as appears by a great number of
" foundations of croſs walls, drains, &c. which have
" been diſcovered. There were, and are to this day,
" two broad roads, or avenues, leading to the gate;
" one eaſtward, and flanked by the old ſtone wall on the
" right hand, from the ſtreet called Waterſide, which
" leads down to the Creek, where boats and barges
" come up from the Thames. This was certainly one
" of the principal avenues from the town to the abbey.
" The other is to the weſt, leading into the farm-yard
" fronting the arch of the weſt ſide of the great tower,
" or gateway. This way leads from the farm up to the
" ſide of the hill into the great road to London; and
" the large hilly field, on the right hand, adjoining the
" road leading as above, is to this day called, The
" King's Field. This abbey, and its environs, took
" up a great extent of land; for, on the north-eaſt ſide,
" fronting this view, were the large gardens and or-
" chards, encompaſſed with the ancient ſtone wall ſtill
" entire, and more than half a mile round, encloſing a
" piece of ground of twelve acres, which is now, and
" has been for a number of years, rented by gardeners,
" to ſupply the London markets; and famous for pro-
" ducing the beſt artichokes in England. On the left
" hand of the road, leading from Water-ſtreet to the eaſt
" front of the abbey, are fine meadows, extending from
" the back part of the High-ſtreet up to the building or

" abbey

" abbey farm; and, oppoſite the long garden wall, on " the right ſide of the ſaid road, and, without doubt, " much more lands now converted into gardens and te- " nements, formerly lay open, and belonged to it."

A conſiderable corn-market is held weekly at Dartford; but here, as in almoſt every other town in the kingdom, the method of ſelling is by ſample. Within thirty years the grain uſed to be regularly pitched; but not a waggon load is to be ſeen in the ſtreet on a Saturday, which is the market-day. There is alſo a fair yearly on the Second of Auguſt for horſes and black cattle.

The church of Dartford is a ſpacious edifice; the time of its being built is not known. In 1333, Hamo de Hethe, Biſhop of Rocheſter, fixed a large window in the chancel, the ſize of which has been reduced many years, but the original dimenſions of it are yet viſible. As a collection was made in the pariſh for new bells in 1450, and there being for ſome years after ſeveral legacies for the ſame purpoſe, it is not unlikely that the ſteeple may have been built about the middle of that century. In the chancel is a flat grave-ſtone, to the memory of John Hornly, vicar of this pariſh, who died in 1477. He was the firſt preſident of Magdalen College in Oxford, continued ten years in that honourable ſtation, and ſeems to have reſigned it on his becoming vicar of Dartford, and rector of a pariſh in the city of London. The inſcription on the tomb-ſtone, which conſiſts of twelve not inelegant verſes, repreſents him to have been a clergyman of exemplary manners, and diſtinguiſhed and reſpected for his abilities and learning by the univerſity of which he was a member. Some epitaphs contain only random praiſe, and moſt other compoſitions

of this kind are juſtly deemed panegyricks of the dead; but there is reaſon to believe that there is no exceſs in the eulogies beſtowed upon Mr. Hornly, from Biſhop Waynfleet having committed to him the government of his newly founded academical ſociety. On the north ſide of the communion table is a fair monument of alabaſter and black marble, for Sir John Spilman, incloſed with iron rails, on which is his effigy in marble, and that of his lady kneeling at a deſk, with each a book open; and on different tablets there are inſcriptions in German, Latin, and Engliſh.

There are two burying grounds belonging to this pariſh, one contiguous to the church, and therefore properly called the Church-yard; the other is on the top of the hill, to the north of the road leading towards Rocheſter, and ſituated by that means above the tower of the church. In no printed account of Kent has any hint been ſuggeſted reſpecting the time when this incloſure was allotted for the interment of the dead. Perhaps a reſearch into the hiſtory of a chantry, in the pariſh of Dartford, may tend to a diſcovery of this hitherto obſcure point. From ſeveral ancient MSS. it appears, that there was formerly in, or *near* Dartford, a little chapel or chantry, dedicated to St. Edmund, a Saxon king and martyr. John de Bykenore, of this pariſh, is imagined to have been the founder of it; a chaplain was, at leaſt, licenſed to it, upon his nomination, as early as the year 1326; and his widow Joan, and Robert Bykenore, were ſucceſſively patrons of it 'till 1371, when the prioreſs and the ſiſters of the nunnery at Dartford are mentioned as being poſſeſſed of that right. Five marks a year was the allowance to the chaplain, but there are grounds for ſuſpecting that care had not been taken at

firſt

firſt to ſecure the legal payment of this penſion. A deed of endowment, under the common ſeal of the nunnery, ſeems not to have been delivered to the biſhop of the dioceſe 'till 1463, in which, however, a field, called Tanner's Field, was declared to be charged with this annual ſtipend. Under this inſtrument the chaplain became alſo entitled to a houſe, with ſome freſh and ſalt marſh appertaining to the ſame, to two acres and an half of land at Fulwick, and to one acre more of land oppoſite to the chapel of St. Edmund. By the will of Thomas Yngledew, a chaplain, who died in 1462, he was to be buried before the altar of the chapel of St. Edmund the king and martyr; and Thomas Worſhip, who had probably been an officiating prieſt in the ſame chantry, defired his body to be interred at the door of the chapel lately founded in the cemetery of St Edmund in Dartford, above the charnel, on the weſt ſide, at the very entrance of the ſaid door. This chantry was preſented as ruinous in 1496; and in 1516, ſix pariſhioners were ſummoned to anſwer to a charge of neglecting the repairs of it. Moſt probably, no money was ever appropriated for this purpoſe, nor was it eaſy to prevail upon the inhabitants to ſubject themſelves to the burden of ſupporting this building. The chantry was, however, diſſolved in the reign of King Edward VI. and having been founded for ſuperſtitious uſes, the revenues of it were granted to the crown by act of parliament. That the burial ground under our review was the cemetery of the chapel of St. Edmund is no unlikely concluſion; and the foundation of an edifice, which may ſtill be traced, adds ſome weight to this conjecture. Before a ſtranger leaves this repoſitory of the dead, perhaps he may obſerve an epitaph cut on a head

of ſtone, placed to the memory of a child of three years old; and there being an inſcriptive ſimplicity in the lines, he will not be diſſatisfied with another peruſal of them. They are as follow—

When the Archangels' trumpets blow,
And ſouls to bodies join;
What crowds will wiſh their ſtay below
Had been as ſhort as mine.

Theſe lines vary a little from the concluding ſtanza of an Epitaph at Wiſbech, in Cambridgeſhire, written by Mr. S. Weſley. In HACKER's *Collection*, vol. I. p. 299, it is thus printed—

Beneath a ſleeping infant lies;
To earth whoſe body lent,
More glorious ſhall hereafter riſe,
Though not more innocent.

When the Archangel's trump ſhall blow,
And ſouls to bodies join,
Millions will wiſh their lives below,
Had been as ſhort as thine.

Equally deſcriptive, and not leſs pleaſing, is another near it, on an infant, as follows—

So fades the lovely blooming flower,
Frail ſmiling ſolace of an hour;
So ſoon our tranſient comforts fly,
And pleaſure only blooms to die.

In this burial ground is a monument to the memory of the firſt wife of William Perfect, M. D. of Weſt Malling, in this county; who has rendered his name famous in

in this and ſucceeding ages, by his great ſkill and unparalleled ſucceſs in the cure of inſane perſons, and for his tenderneſs in the treatment of thoſe unfortunate maniacs who have claimed his care and attention.

STAGE II.

*Dartford Brent—Detail of the Courſe of the Roman Road from Dartford Brent to Strood Hill—Stone; Church and Caſtle—Swanſcombe; Ingreſs; the Cuſtom of Gavelkind—Northfleet—Southfleet—Graveſend—Milton—Higham—Cliffe—Cowling Caſtle—Shorne—Cobham—Chalk—Gad's Hill—Strood—*ROCHESTER.

AT a little diſtance from the ſummit of Dartford Hill is the open plain, upon which, as before mentioned, King Edward III. is imagined to have held a tournament; and the Duke of York, in the reign of Henry VI. certainly aſſembled here a numerous army. It is by many called Dartford Brim, by ſome the Brimpt, and by others the Brink; but Brent, which ſignifies Burnt, is the ancient name; and Rapin, in his detail of the latter tranſaction, ſtyles it, from Hall's Chronicle, the Burnt Heath; whence it acquired that appellation is not known. In digging the gravel pit at the north-eaſt corner of this ground, a few years ſince, the labourers diſcovered the ſkeletons of ſeveral bodies, eight in one part, and four in another. When the aſſizes were held at Dartford, the Brent is ſuppoſed to have been the place of execution, and therefore theſe were imagined to to have been the bones of criminals who had ſuffered death

death under the ſentence of the law; but if the encampment of the Duke of York conſiſted of 10,000 men, and they remained here a few weeks, might not theſe be the remains of ſome of his followers?—No hoſtile bands have, however, fixed their ſtandards on the Brent for many years; and it has long ſince ceaſed to be a field for the performing of thoſe exerciſes, which had the forms of a real battle, and which were too often undeſignedly attended with accidents fatal to the lives of the combatants. The tournaments now exhibited upon this ground are of a more amicable kind. Lords, knights, and eſquires indeed ſtill enter the liſts, but the lance is changed for the bat; the dexterous and powerful uſe of which inſtrument, and for expertly handling the ball, the inhabitants of this county have always been famous, and generally victorious. But to affirm, that at the manly game of cricket, even the men of Kent were never conquered, would be paying them a compliment at the expence of truth.——Cricket is conceived, and upon very plauſible grounds, to have been a Saxon game; and the name to be derived from Cricce, a crooked club, as is the bat uſed for ſtriking the ball. *See Gent. Mag.* v. XLVIII. p. 189. Mr. Barrington has noticed alluſions to this game in the reigns of Kings Edward III. and IV. *Obſervations upon the more Antient Statutes.*

As one branch of what is uſually ſtyled the Roman Watling-ſtreet is ſuppoſed to have been continued from the Bank of the Thames, a little above Lambeth Palace, through Rocheſter and Canterbury to Dover, it may appear rather ſtrange to ſeveral of our fellow-travellers, that they ſhould have proceeded ſixteen miles on their tour, without any hint given to them by their guides to obſerve the marks of this celebrated cauſſey. The reaſon

ſon of the omiſſion is, that from the alterations and improvements made of late years upon the turnpike road, particularly on Blackheath, Shooter's Hill, and Bexley Heath, the traces of the old Roman Way are almoſt obliterated. But beyond Dartford Brent there is much leſs difficulty in diſcovering the remains of it. Eaſt-ſouth-eaſt is nearly the point of direction of the Watling-ſtreet, in Kent; and ſoon after the traveller comes upon the open plain juſt mentioned, if he falls into a track that runs between the turnpike-road and the road leading to Greenſtreet Green, it will convey him into a lane, ſtill often termed the Roman road; and not without reaſon, ſince in divers parts it appears in a plain ridge. In ſome places, hedges ſtand upon it; but in others, for many yards together, it lies between the preſent highway and the hedge on the left; eſpecially near a farm-houſe, the true name of which is Blackſole, but it is vulgarly called Hungergut Hall; and poſſibly was thus denominated by ſome tenant, who apprehended himſelf in danger of being ſtarved, whilſt he was endeavouring to live by cultivating many acres of land belonging to it, that are not naturally very fertile. Leſt the traveller, during his ſearch after the Roman road, ſhould loſe his own way, it may be proper to point out to him the ſeveral turnings he muſt avoid if he be riding to Rocheſter.

About a mile from Blackſole Farm, he will come to a ſpot where four ways croſs one another. The lane on his right hand leads by a few cottages, ſtyled Bean-ſtreet, to Green-ſtreet Green; and that on his left to Greenhithe. But by proceeding forward, he will keep nearly in the courſe of the Roman road for half a mile, 'till he gets to a three-went way. From this opening,

the

the Watling-ſtreet runs through a thick wood, not to be paſſed without great difficulty, unleſs it ſhould happen to have been the ſeaſon of the fall; for which reaſon it will be adviſeable for the traveller to turn off to his right hand along a lane leading to Bedſham, (or Bedeſham more properly) a hamlet in Southfleet pariſh. Here he will meet with another three-went way, and by turning to the left, he will, after he has left North-end Farm-houſe*, come to a ſecond lane on his right hand, not far from the entrance into which, the ſtraight road through the wood would have brought him, had he been able to have purſued it. In this lane, which can but be a little out of the track of the Watling-ſtreet, is a ſmall brook, called Spring-head. The prevailing notion of the people of this neighbourhood is, that the tide from the Thames formerly flowed up to this ſpot; and an anchor having been found in this valley, a little below Spring-head, renders this opinion highly probable. The plough has often turned up, in an adjoining field, large ſtones that ſeemed to have been uſed for the foundations of buildings: and as coins have been alſo been diſcovered, it is not unlikely there may have been a ſtreet of houſes in this quarter of Southfleet pariſh for the accommodation of fiſhermen and mariners. This lane will bring the traveller to a four-went way, called Wingfield Bank, upon which a direction-poſt is fixed. At this place, not many years ago, a ſtone was diſcovered, which, when dug up, was judged to be a Roman mile-ſtone; it lay on its ſide about a foot below the ſurface of the ground, on the remains of the Watling-ſtreet road.

* Inſtead of turning to the left towards North-end Farm, travellers generally ride through Bedſham, and the firſt lane on the left leads up to the direction poſt above mentioned.

That

That eminent antiquary, of our county, the late Dr. Thorpe, conjectured the Roman ſtation, denominated Vagniacæ, to have been ſituated near the Spring head; and it ought to be obſerved, that the ſpot where the ſtone was found is about ten Italian miles from the Medway at Strood. HASTED's *Hiſtory*.

If from Wingfield Bank the traveller takes the road leading to Rocheſter, he will, after riding about two miles, come to Shinglewell; lately inhabited by Captain Inglefield, well known by his miraculous eſcape from ſhipwreck on board the Centaur a few years ſince. Near this village the Roman road ſhews itſelf very conſpicuouſly in divers ſpots, with the hedges placed upon it, ſometimes on the right, and ſometimes on the left hand, and now and then falling in with the common highway. In this manner the courſe of it continues to be viſible quite on to Cobham Park, and the park fence ſeems to ſtand upon it for a little way, but then leaving the pales, as may be ſeen (according to Dr. Plott's obſervation) in the paſſage out of the north gate of the park, where the way appears to croſs it, it runs into a thick wood, where it is not to be followed. But the traveller, by purſuing the road that runs from the park-gate along the pales, will, after riding about three miles, arrive at the hill which leads down to Strood.—This bye-way has its amuſements and conveniencies even for perſons whoſe antiquarian curioſity may not be ſtrong enough to prompt them to enter upon it, merely with the hope of traverſing the imagined ſteps of ſome great Roman general. Many parts of it afford pleaſing proſpects; in the ſummer it is ſhady, and free from duſt; and notwithſtanding the deviation made, near Bedſham, from the Watling-ſtreet, ſome ground muſt be ſaved. Formerly,

when

when all the road-way was paſſable, the difference of diſtance in riding from Dartford to Rocheſter muſt have been conſiderable. Let the traveller, when near Blackſole Farm, look back, and he will at once perceive how ſtraight the line of the Roman road was from Shooter's Hill to that part of the lane; and what a compaſs is now taken on the turnpike-road by Stone, Swanſcombe, Northfleet, &c. When the Watling-ſtreet ceaſed to be uſed as the principal road to London does not appear; the alteration was doubtleſs gradual, and probably made for the ſake of a nearer communication with the Thames. There is, however, a tradition, that it was in order to eſcape the gangs of robbers, which were apt to infeſt the woods contiguous to the Roman road. And in Swanſcombe Park are ſtill remaining two deep caverns, where theſe freebooters are imagined to have concealed themſelves.

But to return to Dartford Brent, and from thence to attend the traveller on his tour in the adjoining pariſh of Stone. Within half a mile to the left of the ſeventeenth ſtone ſtands the church, which is a beautiful ſtructure, conſiſting of a chancel, a nave, and two ſide aiſles. The roof is lofty, ſupported by a double row of fine ſlender columns, and pointed arches; and at the weſt end are two ſegments of an arch, which ſpring from the firſt columns to the ſouth and north walls, and have a pleaſing effect. The nave is divided from the chancel by a noble arch enriched with Gothic work. The chancel is ſpacious, with pilaſtres and arches of brown marble, the ſpandels of which are ornamented with Gothic work. The north door of the church is curiouſly adorned with a zigzag moulding, roſes, &c. The windows are large and regular, as is the whole building,

which

which for ſymmetry and proportion may be juſtly eſteemed the fineſt piece of Gothic architecture in the dioceſe of Rocheſter.

Weaver (the author of Ancient Funeral Monuments, publiſhed in 1631) mentions "the whole fabric "of this church to have been in his time upholden in "wond'rous good repair, and her inſide neatly po-"liſhed." The pariſhioners of Stone ſtill deſerve commendation, for the proper attention ſhewn by them to this ſacred edifice, as they have lately, at a great expence, cieled the church, and repaired and ornamented different parts of it. The manor of Stone belongs to the ſee of Rocheſter, whoſe biſhops formerly reſided for ſome months in the year in the manor-houſe, ſituated near the church-yard. It has long been inhabited by the farmer of the demeſne lands*; and the great chimney, which is in the centre of the preſent building, is thought to be the only remaining part of the ancient manſion, which never ſeems to have been dignified with the denomination of a palace. At the foot of the hill, after paſſing Stone Church, the traveller may catch a confined, but pleaſing view of the Thames.—Weſt Thurrock is the church ſeen on the Eſſex ſhore.

Stone Caſtle, which ſtands to the ſouth of the road, and, at a little diſtance from it, is the next object likely to draw the attention of the traveller. There is a difficulty in determining, with exactneſs, when this ſtructure of defence was raiſed. Perhaps it might be one of the one hundred and fifteen caſtles reported to have been built with the conſent of King Stephen, and not demo-

* About the middle of the 13th century, theſe demeſne lands of Stone Manor were ſurveyed and valued; the arable at 3d. and the marſh land at 4d. per acre.

liſhed in compliance with the articles of agreement made between that monarch and Duke Henry, afterwards Henry II. But though the age of this monument of antiquity cannot be fixed, the name of the perſon who built, or, at leaſt, ſubſtantially repaired it, is not equally uncertain; ſince, according to Philipot, the arms of the Northwood's were inſculped in the old ſtone work before it was diſmantled. In the 20th of King Edward III. when the honour of knighthood was conferred upon the Black Prince, John de Norwood paid a fine for this caſtle, but how much earlier any of the name was poſſeſſed of it has not appeared. The Norwoods were certainly of note in this county long before the year above-mentioned. Howberry, in Crayford, was the property of one of the name in the reign of Henry III. and Roger de Norwood, of Norwood Chaſteners, in Milton, near Sittingbourn, attended King Richard I. to the ſiege of Acon, in Paleſtine. In the church of Minſter in the Iſle of Sheepey, is an inſcription, which implies, that Roger Norwood, and Boon his wife, were buried there before the Conqueſt; but though it is not unlikely that the family might have been ſettled in Kent before the arrival of William the Norman, the characters of this epitaph ſhew it to be of a much later date. The ſquare tower of Stone Caſtle is probably the only part of the fortreſs that is now remaining; and, as Philipot deſcribes it, though it now lies wrapped up in its own ruins, yet the ſhell, or ſkeleton of it, within which Sir Richard Wiltſhire laid the foundation of the fabric now extant, repreſents to the eye ſome ſymptoms of its former ſtrength and magnificence.

This caſtle, with the lands appertaining to it, is now veſted in feoffees, purſuant to the will of Dr. Thomas Plume,

Plume, formerly Archdeacon of Rocheſter, and the rent thereof appropriated to the augmentation of ſmall livings within that dioceſe, and for the maintaining of a lecture at Dartford or Graveſend, every Wedneſday or Saturday morning, from the 25th of March to Michaelmas alternately, or one year at Dartford, and the next at Graveſend. The money allowed by the will to the preachers is ten ſhillings for their ſermons, and two ſhillings for the dinner of themſelves and their friends, and the ſexton is to have ten ſhillings a quarter, during the time of the ſaid lecture, for tolling the bell. The archdeacon alſo gave ten ſhillings a quarter, to be divided among the moſt indigent and godly poor that moſt frequently reſort to this lecture; alſo twenty ſhillings each of the two quarters, wherein the lecture is preached, to the miniſter of the pariſh for his reading prayers before the ſaid lecture in the morning, and for the uſe of his pulpit. The incumbents of the twenty following benefices are the truſtees of this charity—the rectors of Crayford, Fawkham, Graveſend, Luddeſdown, Milton, Ridley, Stone, and Swanſcombe; the vicars of Cobham, Dartford, Eltham, Frendſbury, Greenwich, Halling, Higham, Horton Kirby, Northfleet, Plumſtead, and Shorne; and the curate of Chatham. They meet twice a year at Stone Caſtle, viz. on the Tueſday next before Lady-day, and the firſt Tueſday after Michaelmas, in order to tranſact the buſineſs of this benevolent and uſeful inſtitution; and ſuch of the truſtees as are preſent at the former meeting, preach in their turns the lectures for the ſucceeding half-year. By the will of the donor, the tenant is to be allowed out of his rent twenty ſhillings to provide them a dinner on each of thoſe days. Dr. Plume died the 20th of November, 1704, and lies buried in the church-yard of

Longfield, under an altar tomb of black marble, adjoining to the ſouth wall of the church. Longfield is a very ſmall pariſh, ſituated about four miles to the ſouth of Stone.

In the reign of William Rufus, the archdeaconry of Rocheſter was endowed with the manor of Longfield, which court lodge was anciently the only place appropriated for their reſidence. Dr. Maurice Griffith, who ſucceeded to this preferment in 1533, and who became afterwards biſhop of the dioceſe, ſeems to have been the firſt archdeacon who demiſed this manor, which he did for fourſcore years: and before the expiration of that term, a concurrent leaſe was granted for threeſcore years more. But for upwards of a century the tenants have held their manor under leaſes for twenty-one years, at the old accuſtomed rent, and renewable in the ſame manner with other eſtates belonging to eccleſiaſtical bodies ſole and aggregate. The connection which Dr. Plume, as Archdeacon of Rocheſter, had with Longfield, might probably be his reaſon for directing his remains to be interred there; and he has enjoined the truſtees of the Stone Caſtle eſtate to pay five pounds per annum, by half-yearly payments, to the church-wardens of Longfield, for keeping his grave and grave-ſtone in good repair for ever. John Talbot, Eſq. is the preſent tenant of Stone Caſtle, and the traveller, by the view he has of it from the road, may eaſily conceive it to be a very beautiful ſituation. Stone church being alſo yet in ſight, it may not be too late to acquaint him, that it appears from the regiſters of Upminſter, in Eſſex, that that church and ſteeple were fired by lightning, and partly conſumed in December, 1638; and that at the ſame time the churches of South Okenden, in the ſame county,

county, and of Stone, in Kent, were likewiſe burnt. The damage which Stone church received, it is manifeſt, could be only partial. Probably the lightning might only injure the ſteeple that was raiſed above the tower, in which, according to tradition, there was in the reign of Queen Elizabeth a very muſical ſet of bells. And on ſame authority it is reported, that the Queen, who frequently paſſed down and up the river, was wont to expreſs herſelf to be much delighted with the harmony of them.

At the bottom of the next hill, called Gravel Hill, on the north ſide of the road, is a lane leading to Greenhithe. From this place great quantities of lime are conveyed to London for building; and the farmers upon the Eſſex coaſt are ſupplied with the ſame article to manure their lands. Coaſting veſſels alſo, from different parts of the kingdom, very frequently take in at Greenhithe a freight of chalk, which has been found to mellow and fertilize ſome kinds of ſoils. It is obſerved by Mr. Pennant, (*Journey from Cheſter to London*, p. 214.) "That chalk was of great eſtimation as an article of commerce in the time of the Romans; that the workers of it had their goddeſs *Nehelennia*, who preſided over it, and that he had found a votive altar with this inſcription,

Deæ Nehelenniæ
Ob meries rite conſervatas
M. ſecundus ſilvanus
Negotor cretarius
Britannicianus
V. S. L. M.

And in page 223, the ſame ingenious and learned traveller adds, "Pliny deſcribes this Britiſh earth under

the title of *creta argentaria*," and notices, " *petitur ex alto in centens pedes actis puteis ore auguſtatis : intus ut in metallis ſpatiante vena hoc maxime Britannia utitur.*" (lib. xvii. c. 8.) This very method is uſed at preſent. The farmer ſinks a pit, and (in the terms of a miner) drives out on all ſides, leaving a ſufficient roof, and draws up the chalk in buckets through a narrow mouth. Pliny informs us in his remarks on the Britiſh marls then, that they will laſt eighty years, and that there is not an example of any perſon being obliged to marl his land twice in his life. An experienced farmer whom I met with in Hertfordſhire, aſſured me, that he had about thirty years before made uſe of this manure on a field of his, and that ſhould he live to the period mentioned by the Roman naturaliſt, he thought he ſhould not have occaſion for a repetition. Petrified ſhells, and many other extraneous foſſils, are frequently found embodied in the chalk; ſome of which are extremely curious, and very valuable*. John Lucas, of Swanſcombe, by licence from King Edward III. built and endowed a chapel in Greenhithe, to the honour of the Virgin Mary, in which divine offices were to be performed daily for the health and ſafety of the king and founder during their lives, and for their ſouls after their deceaſe, as alſo for the ſouls of their anceſtors, and of all the faithful. Some of the walls of this chapel are ſtill remaining, but it has long been converted into a tenement. In the antiquities in Kent, ſubjoined to Cuſtomale Roffenſe, p. 256, there is a deſcription of this chantry chapel, with an elevation of its weſt end, and of ſome alms houſes that are ſituated

* A line drawn from Dorcheſter, in the county of Dorſet, to the county of Norfolk, would include all the chalky beds in the kingdom; for none is found in any quantity to the weſt of that line.

near

near it. And Mr. Thorpe has there remarked, that the hamlet of Greenhithe was formerly called *Gretenerſe*, and *Creternerſe*, from creta, its chalky ſoil. At Greenhithe there is a ferry for horſes and other cattle acroſs the Thames into Eſſex. The priory at Dartford was formerly entitled to the profits of it; but at the ſuppreſſion of that houſe it came to the crown, and in the 34th of Henry VIII. was demiſed, for twenty-one years, at thirty-three ſhillings and four-pence a year.

When the traveller is at the top of Gravel-Hill, he may diſcern, through the trees, the much admired villa Ince Grice, or Ingreſs, as it is commonly pronounced. The prioreſs and nuns at Dartford were poſſeſſed of this houſe, and it of courſe came to the crown upon the diſſolution of that religious community. From the time of the firſt grant of it in fee by Queen Elizabeth, it has paſſed by ſale to many proprietors. Jonathan Smith, Eſq. who was owner of it in 1719, built a new front; after him the houſe belonged ſucceſſively to the late Earl of Hyndford, to the preſent Earl of Beſborough, whilſt Lord Duncannon, aud to the late Mr. Calcraft, who added to the manſion a ſpacious and elegant apartment, which commands an enchanting view of the river. The plantations, and other improvements in the grounds, formerly chalk-pits, on the weſt ſide of the houſe, were made by Lord Beſborough, and thoſe in the other parts by Mr. Calcraft. This gentleman particularly removed a great bank of earth on the ſouth ſide, and by this means made it more airy and cheerful. The old kitchen garden was upon this ſpot, but Mr. Calcraft encloſed a large piece of ground, for this uſe, on the other ſide of the road, within which he erected a hot-houſe. The whole of Mr. Smith's eſtate at Ingreſs was 533l. per annum, of which only the houſe, gardens, and two acres

of

of land, were purchaſed by the Earl of Hyndford; and the Earl of Beſborough is ſaid to have ſold Ingreſs to Mr. Calcraft for 5000l. including the furniture, library, &c. (HASTED's *Hiſt.* p. 263, 264.) This houſe, with one eſtate formerly belonging to it, with other lands purchaſed by the late Mr. Calcraft, were ſold by auction a ſhort time ſince to D. Roebuck, Eſq.

Greenhithe, as well as Ingreſs, is in Swanſcombe pariſh, the church of which diſtrict lies about a mile to the ſouth of the turnpike-road. To the memories of St. Peter and St. Paul was this ſacred edifice erected; but anciently it ſeems to have been much more famous on account of an altar in it dedicated to Hildeferth, a ſuppoſed Saxon ſaint; whoſe name is not, however, enrolled in any monkiſh legend now extant. Lambard mentions his having ſeen a picture of him in an epiſcopal habit, fixed in the upper window of the ſouth ſide of the church. Ignorant and credulous papiſts were ever inclined to recur for aid to different ſaints under different emergencies; and of theſe perſonages (many of whom, though canonized by the ſuperſtition of former ages, never had an exiſtence) ſome were conceived to be no leſs able than well diſpoſed, to remove the ſeveral diſeaſes and calamities of mankind. The teeth of St. Apollonia were a charm for the tooth-ach; St. Petrone, and St. Sigiſmund, in the opinion of their votariſts, could cure a fever, or an ague; and a relict of St. Genow was a ſpecific for the gout. To St. Macurine, St. Sarik, and St. Hildeferth was aſſigned the ſtill more arduous province of relieving the diſorders of the underſtanding; and, before the reformation, the altar of the latter was frequented by numberleſs devotees, who were ſolicitous to have their friends reſtored to a ſound mind.

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It is, however, manifeſt, that the prieſts did not rely ſolely upon the miraculous interpoſition of the Saint at whoſe altar they officiated: for they conſtantly recommended cloſe confinement, a ſtrict regard to diet, and other rules, which the ableſt practitioners preſcribed for the cure of their patients who labour under a ſpecies of affliction, the moſt afflicting and terrible in the long catalogue of human maladies.

Swanſcombe is ſuppoſed to have taken its name from this diſtrict having been the place of encampment of Swein, King of Denmark; nor does this ſeem a forced etymology of the term. Phillipot pronounces it to be a certainty, that this monarch erected a caſtle here for a winter ſituation, and that ſome veſtiges of the fortreſs might be traced in his time. Harris alſo informs his readers of his having obſerved ſeveral heaps of earth, which were judged to be Daniſh camps and ſconces, ſcattered about this pariſh, particularly on Highroads Hill*, on the Mounts, and in Swanſcombe Park. According to the ſame author, they all lie very high, ſome having an hollow place at the top, and none of them above thirty or forty yards over, and he imagined them to have been places where a ſmall number of men were ſtationed, in order to diſcover, and give warning of the approach of an enemy.

Swanſcombe was for ſome centuries no leſs celebrated by the Men of Kent, than for a like reaſon Runny Mead is ſtill by all the people of England, as being the ſcene upon which their anceſtors were ſuppoſed to have exhibited a repreſentation of a moving wood, which aſtoniſhed and alarmed William, Duke of Normandy, and

* Highroads Hill ſeems to have been that, now called Gravel Hill.

where, " upon throwing down their leafy ſcreens, and " ſhewing like thoſe they were," with their bows and their arrows, their ſpears and their ſwords, they demanded and obtained a confirmation of all their cuſtomary laws and privileges, before they would acknowledge that prince to be their ſovereign. As Thomas Spot, a religious of St. Auſtin's Abbey, in Canterbury, is the only writer who has mentioned this extraordinary military manœuvre of his countrymen, it is treated as entirely fabulous. And when it is conſidered, that this monk was not born 'till almoſt two centuries after the arrival of William the Norman, and that ſeveral of the circumſtances related by him are inconſiſtent with the account given of the ſucceſsful invaſion of that monarch by cotemporary hiſtorians of credit, the authenticity of ſome of theſe occurrences may well be queſtioned. Perhaps the ſtory ought to be claſſed with many other ſurprizing unrecorded events that have a contexture of truth and falſhood, the work of many ages, and therefore not to be eaſily unravelled. There is, however, hardly any room for doubting of the Men of Kent having maintained ſome of their immunities with a high hand at the Conqueſt. Though that hoſtile revolution wrought a great change of laws and uſages, with regard to rights of perſons and property, in almoſt every other part of England, claims were in former times repeatedly made of theſe liberties and cuſtoms before the Kentiſh Juſtices in Eyre, particularly in the reigns of King Henry III. and Edward I. on account of the frequent encroachments committed as well by the ſheriffs as the reſt of the crown officers; and the uſage of them was as conſtantly acknowledged in theſe circuits. In the library of Sir Edward Dering, at Surrenden, is a record of one of the

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proceedings before these justices itinerant, wherein it is expressly set forth, that the rest of the kingdom had not the usage of these liberties and customs. The claim then contended for was a discharge from some burdens laid upon the commonalty of Kent, derogatory of their immemorial privileges; but on this occasion, each particular custom was enumerated; and the reason for allowing them is clearly and fully declared to be—"Because the said county was not conquered with the rest of the kingdom, but surrendered itself up to the Conqueror by a peace made with him, and a saving to himself of all liberties and free customs before that time had and used." (PREFACE *to* HASTED'*s History*, p. 21. cxliii.) Gavelkind is the term by which the privileges so much valued by the Men of Kent, in general, are distinguished; and as these pages are principally designed for the information and amusement of strangers to our county, who may have formed mistaken notions of the nature and extent of what is styled, the *Common Law of Kent*, it will not be improper to add a summary detail of the chief articles of it. This account will be extracted, in a great measure, from the Treatise on the Customs of Gavelkind, published in 1741, by Thomas Robinson, Esq. of Lincoln's Inn, who has, with equal ingenuity and learning, investigated and explained this curious subject.

Antiquaries have been, and still are, divided in their sentiments concerning the etymology of the word. As the partibility of the land has, for time immemorial, been deemed an essential property of the law of Gavelkind, that exposition should seem to be founded on the most probable grounds, which has a reference to the nature of the land in this mode of descent. Accordingly, some skilful etymologists have deduced it from the Saxon

phrase,

phraſe, Gife eal Cyn, or Give all Kind, or from words to that purport. But other writers, of equal eminence in this branch of knowledge, conceiving the term to have originally denoted the nature of the ſervices yielded by the land, have imagined it to be a compound of the word Gavel, which ſignifies rent, or a cuſtomary performance of huſbandry works, aud of Gecynde, which means nature, kind, quality, &c. and that the proper interpretation of Gavelkind is, therefore, land of that kind or nature that yielded rent, in contradiſtinction to lands holden by a military tenure, which yielded no rent or ſervice, in money, proviſions, or works of agriculture. This derivation was firſt ſuggeſted by Lambard, afterwards eſpouſed and maintained by Somner, in his elaborate Treatiſe of Gavelkind, and is declared by Robinſon, "to be the moſt natural and eaſy account, as doing the leaſt violence to the words, and beſt ſupported both by reaſon and authority." And yet, if we recollect, that, in order to eſtabliſh this opinion, the laſt-mentioned writer is conſtrained to ſurmiſe, "that the partible quality of the land was rather extrinſic and accidental to Gavelkind, than neceſſarily comprehended under that term," notwithſtanding he has repeatedly ſhewn, "its having been admitted," for nobody can trace how long a period, to be "a property abſolutely requiſite and eſſential to the nature of the land,—which of itſelf will conſtitute Gavelkind, and without which it cannot exiſt;" an enquirer muſt remain in a ſtate of ſuſpenſe upon this point till ſome author ſhall ſtart a more happy conjecture.

The joint inheritance of all the ſons to the eſtate of the father is the principal branch of the law of Gavelkind; and if the father outlives a ſon, the portion which

which ſhould have come to *that* ſon, deſcends to *his* ſons, where there are any, otherwiſe to his daughters, but upon the deceaſe of the father without male iſſue, daughters divide the lands. Nor is the partibility of Gavelkind reſtrained to the right line only: for all brothers jointly inherit the eſtate of a brother who dies without iſſue; and, agreeably to the rule before noticed reſpecting grand-ſons and grand-daughters, nephews or nieces are entitled, by the right of repreſentation, to the ſhare that would have belonged to their deceaſed father.—The tranſmitting of an equal part of a parent's poſſeſſions to all thoſe who were equally connected with him by the deareſt and moſt tender affections is a method of diſtribution ſo obvious, ſo impartial, and ſo reaſonable, that one may fairly conclude it to have been an univerſal law, till, by a refined ſcheme of policy, it was judged uſeful, or, as ſome think, found neceſſary to raiſe diſtinctions where nature had made none.

"When land," writes Dr. Smith, (*Enquiry into the Wealth of Nations*, v. ii. p. 82.) "like moveables, is conſidered as the means only of ſubſiſtence and enjoyment, the natural law of ſucceſſion divides it, like them, among all the children of the family, all of whom the ſubſiſtence and enjoyment may be ſuppoſed to be equally dear to the father. This natural law of ſucceſſion accordingly took place among the Romans, who made no more diſtinction between elder and younger, between male and female in the inheritance of lands, than we do in the diſtribution of moveables. But when land was conſidered as the means, not of ſubſiſtence merely, but of power and protection, it was thought better that it ſhould deſcend undivided to one."

"Laws frequently continue in force long after the circumſtances which firſt gave occaſion to them, and which could alone render them reaſonable, are no more. In the preſent ſtate of Europe, the proprietor of a ſingle acre of land is as perfectly ſecure of his poſſeſſions as the proprietor of a hundred thouſand. The right of primogeniture, however, ſtill continues to be reſpected; and, as of all inſtitutions, it is the fitteſt to ſupport the pride of family diſtinctions, it is ſtill likely to endure for many centuries. In every other reſpect, nothing can be more contrary to the real intereſt of a numerous family than a right, which, in order to enrich one, beggars all the reſt of the family."

A proportionable degree of commendation ſeems, therefore, to be due to thoſe nations and ſmall diſtricts who have deviated leaſt from this moſt equitable mode of deſcent. In which claſs ought to be placed the inhabitants of North Wales, where are many remnants of the cuſtom of Gavelkind, that have contributed to the preſervation of an independent race of warm and wealthy yeomanry, and courted as yet by the great men of the country. (*Mr.* PENNANT'*s Tour*, p. 375.) Whether our Britiſh anceſtors, the Welſh, did not give a preference to males has been doubted; but there is a law of Canute, which ſtrongly implies, that our Daniſh predeceſſors admitted daughters as well as ſons to an equal ſhare, both of the real and perſonal eſtates of their progenitors. As by the cuſtom of Gavelkind females are excluded where there are males, it is probable that the Saxons were not in this reſpect ſo complaiſant to the fair-ſex as the Danes; and ſome rude law-givers among the former are ſuggeſted to have aſſigned a ſarcaſtic but falſe reaſon for this partial diſtinction; namely, that the worthieſt of blood were preferred.——It is, however, undeniable, that before,

and

and at the Conqueſt, the eldeſt ſon did not inherit to the excluſion of all his brothers. The right of ſole ſucceſſion ſeems to have been introduced at that period from its being better adapted than the diviſible practice of inheritance to that military and tyrannical form of government which King William intended to eſtabliſh. And though the claim of primogeniture was reſiſted with ſucceſs by the Men of Kent, the reſt of the kingdom was gradually brought to acquieſce under this Norman encroachment, except in ſome rather inſignificant burghs, and a few particular manors, where the Saxon immunities ſubſiſted by ſpecial indulgence.

There is leſs difficulty in refuting the imaginary ſchemes ſaid to have been contrived by the inhabitants of Kent, for preſerving the ancient cuſtom of a partible deſcent, than in ſhewing by what means ſo large and important a diſtrict could well avoid complying with an innovation that ſome powerful and reſolute monarchs had to a degree conſtrained almoſt all their other Engliſh ſubjects to ſubmit to. Various alſo are the cauſes which have been thought to have actuated them to perſevere in this ſingular practice. The following motive, mentioned by Mr. Somner, ſeems to be a conjecture the moſt plauſible, and what may be beſt ſupported by experience —" The Kentiſh Men," obſerves this learned author, " the commons there, I mean, like the Londoners, more careful in thoſe days to maintain their iſſue for the preſent, than their houſes for the future, were more tenacious, tender, and retentive of the preſent cuſtom, and more careful to continue to it, than generally thoſe of moſt other ſhires were; not becauſe (as ſome give reaſon) the younger be as good gentlemen as the elder brethren; (an argument proper, perchance, for the partible land in Wales,) but

becauſe it was land, which, by the nature of it, appertained not to the gentry, but to the yeomanry, whoſe name or houſe they cared not ſo much to uphold by keeping the inheritance to the elder brother." SOMNER *on Gavelkind*, p. 89, 90.

"And this account," ſays Mr Robinſon, "agrees well with the genius and temper of the people, who," according to Lambard, "in this their eſtate, pleaſe themſelves, and joy exceedingly; inſomuch, as a man may find ſundry yeomen (although otherwiſe for wealth comparable with many of the gentle ſort) that will not for all that change their condition, nor deſire to be apparelled with the titles of gentry." (PERAMB. p. 14.) A ſtriking inſtance of this ſpirit of yeomanry, is given by Aubrey, in his account of the Everſheds, of Everſhed, in Ockley, in Surrey. For "when the heralds made their viſitation into theſe parts, one of the family, on being urged to take a coat of arms, told them he knew no difference between gentlemen and yeomen, but that the latter were the better men, and that they were really gentlemen only, who had longeſt preſerved their eſtates and patrimonies in the ſame place, without waſte or diſſipation; an obſervation very juſt*."—*Antiquities of Surrey*, V. iv. p. 179.

Mr. Camden, in the chapter of the Degrees of England prefixed to his Britannia, has remarked, that yeomen are by ſome ſtyled *Ingenui*, a word not tranſlated by the right reverend editor of that valuable work, poſſibly

* May it not be inferred from the above inſtance, that yeomen, as ſuch, were not entitled to uſe a coat of arms. And Mr. Barrington remarks, it ſhould ſeem from Kilway's Reports, that in the time of Henry VII. there were but two ways of becoming a *Gentleman*, viz. either by a grant from the King, or by executing particular offices. *Obſervations on the more Ancient Statutes*, p. 343, Note.

from

from his not recollecting any Engliſh word ſynonymous to yeomen. Whether "gentleman-like" gives the full meaning of the term, or whether, "a little gentleman," which is Dr. Johnſon's definition * of a rich Franklin in the Weald of Kent, is a more apt and forcible expreſſion, ſhall be ſubmitted to the opinion of the reader. Thus far is clear, that a yeoman was not ſuppoſed to be liable to any baſe or menial ſervice; and by a ſtatute of the 2d of Henry IV. a yeoman was prohibited taking or wearing the livery of any lord upon pain of impriſonment, or a fine at the king's pleaſure.

According to Sir Thomas Smith, who was ſecretary of ſtate to King Edward VI. a yeoman was in his time a free-born Engliſhman, who could "diſpend of his own free lands, in yearly revenue to the ſum of forty ſhillings;" and this was the annual income of a freehold eſtate, by which the law long denoted a free and lawful man; becauſe, whoever was poſſeſſed of it, might from the 21ſt of Edward I. to the 27th of Elizabeth, ſerve upon a jury; and ever ſince the beginning of the reign of Henry VI. this has been the proper qualification to vote at the election of knights of the ſhire. It is highly probable, that this order of the people was formerly more numerous in Kent than in other counties, as well from the general partible quality of the land in this diſtrict, as, that the tenants of the land of Gavelkind were not ſo much ſubject here as in other parts of the kingdom, to the controul of lords of manors, by copyhold or any more rigid cuſtomary tenure. Freeholder, and not yeoman, is, however, at preſent the moſt common term, and for an obvious reaſon. When yeoman is uſed, it

* In Shakeſpeare's Firſt Part of Henry IV.

generally conveys to the hearer, at leaſt in the ears of an old Kentiſh Man, the idea of a wealthy man, who occupies a large parcel of arable or grazing land, together with his own free eſtate. The following old proverb, concerning the yeomen of Kent, may be new to ſome travellers:

A knight of Cales*, a gentleman of Wales,
And a laird of the north country;
A yeoman of Kent, with his yearly rent,
Will buy them out all three.

There are ſtill many in Kent who are opulent†, and diſcover the ſame free ſpirit and firmneſs that diſtinguiſhed the yeomen of former ages. They are likewiſe very frequently guided in the voluntary diſpoſal of their fortunes by that golden rule of equity, which is the fundamental principle of Gavelkind, in order to ſecure to all their children the ſame independency which they have enjoyed themſelves. In one reſpect, indeed, they muſt be allowed to have deviated from the maxims and practices of their anceſtors; as they have not the like ſtrong antipathy at being "apparelled with the ſtyle of the gentle ſort." The plain homely term of yeoman is often dropt, and in the room of it is ſubſtituted the title of a gentleman farmer.

So predominant is Gavelkind in Kent, that all lands are preſumed to be ſubject to that uſage till the contrary

* Knights of Cales were made by Robert Earl of Eſſex, A. 1596, to the number of ſixty, ſome whereof were men of mean fortune. *Fuller's Worthies.*

† The eſtate of the old Franklyn's, remarks Weaver, and yeomen of England, either yet liveth in Kent, or elſe it is quite dead, and departed out of the realm for altogether. *Funeral Monuments*, p. 348.

is

is proved; and formerly ſuch lands only were exempted from it as were holden by knight's ſervice. Our Kings anciently exerciſed a prerogative of thus changing the cuſtomary deſcent, together with the tenure; nor was this a power inſeparably incident to the crown, but ſometimes delegated to others, and particularly by king John, in the third year of his reign, to archbiſhop Hubert and his ſucceſſors, for lands holden of the ſee of Canterbury. Contrary interpretations were, indeed, at different times put upon this charter; but ſuch was the generally accounted effect of the alteration of the tenure under this licence, that the Gavelkind lands ſo converted into military fees, became from thenceforth deſcendible to the eldeſt ſon only. The legiſlative authority alone can now over-rule the cuſtom of an equal partition among the ſons, and ſeveral acts of parliament have been made to ſet it aſide. The firſt of theſe laws was paſſed in the reign of Henry VII, at the requeſt of Sir Richard Guldeford, and in the 15th of Henry VIII. Another ſtatute was obtained by Sir Henry Wiat. In the 31ſt year of the ſame Prince, the lands of thirty-four noblemen and gentlemen were thus diſgavelled; and, by a ſtatute of the 2d and 3d of King Edward VI. the ſame liberty was allowed to twelve of thoſe named in the laſt-mentioned act, and to thirty other perſons. The lands of three gentlemen only were diſgavelled by parliament in the reign of Elizabeth, and of the ſame number in that of her ſucceſſor; nor has Mr. Robinſon noticed any act of a later date than the firſt year of King James's acceſſion to the crown.

Gavelkind was ſo general in Kent, that in a ſtatute of the 18th of Henry VI. it is expreſsly declared, that "there were not, at that day, within one ſhire above forty

forty perſons which had lands to the yearly value of twenty pounds, without the tenure of Gavelkind; and that the greater part of this country, or well nigh all, was within that tenure." And though the quantity of lands exempted from this partible property was much increaſed by the ſeveral diſgavelling ſtatutes, yet, as Mr. Robinſon remarks, the difficulty is ſo great, either of ſhewing what eſtates were formerly held by military tenure, or of pointing out the lands, of which the perſons named in thoſe acts were reſpectively ſeiſed at the time of their being paſſed, that he believed he ſhould not be miſtaken were he to aſſert, that there is now as much land in the county ſubject to the controul of this cuſtom, as there was before the enacting of the diſgavelling laws. And this is a difficulty that muſt daily increaſe, and which can rarely be obviated without incurring a large expence. Thus feeble and uncertain have been all former attempts to cancel an uſage that has the ſeal of antiquity preſſed upon it, and which is certainly founded upon a principle of juſtice and equity. Nor does there ſeem to be any material detriment likely to ariſe from a continuance of it; becauſe the tenants in Gavelkind may make ſettlements, and now have, under the ſtatute of deviſes, an indiſputable power of diſpoſing of their eſtates by will, as the exigencies of their family affairs may require, which was formerly a matter of doubt.

In the opinion of the very learned commentator on the Laws of England, the equal diviſion of lands among all the males, is a practice really inconvenient, and more eſpecially deſtructive to ancient families; but poſſibly, if a cloſe enquiry were made into the deſcents and variations of the lands that have been diſgavelled by parliament, it might be diſcovered that the aim of the perſons, who,

who, under the influence of this notion, ſolicited the privilege, was ſoon rendered abortive; and that, in fact, their whole eſtates paſſed into different families ſooner than they would have done, had not all the younger brothers been excluded from partaking of any part of them. This might be the caſe with Sir Thomas Cheney, whoſe name occurs in the ſtatutes of the 31ſt of Henry VIII. and of the 2d and 3d of Edward VI. There can be no doubt that his view was to ſecure in his family the very large real property he enjoyed in this county; and yet, ſo far was his ſon from perpetuating the honour of his father's houſe to future ages, by this acquiſition of fortune, that, if Philipott is not miſtaken, Henry Lord Cheney reduced himſelf, by his boundleſs diſſipation and extravagance, to a neceſſity of ſelling almoſt all the eſtates very early in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. But of this nobleman, Fuller, in his *Worthies*, under the article Berks, thus writes:—"Though in his youth wild and venturous, witneſs his playing at dice with Henry II. King of France, from whom he won a diamond of great value at a caſt; and being demanded what ſhift he ſhould have made to repair himſelf in caſe he had loſt the caſt. I have (ſaid the young Cheney, in an hyperbolical brave) ſheeps-tails enough in Kent, with their wool, to buy a better diamond than this." His reduced age afforded the befitting fruits of gravity and wiſdom.

Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Eſſex, the active, faithful, and unfortunate miniſter of Henry VIII. is the firſt name on the liſt of thoſe perſons whoſe eſtates were diſgavelled by the ſtatute of the 31ſt of that King; nor is it unlikely that the act was the more eaſily obtained through the influence of a powerful premier, at that time

time in high favour with his ſovereign, but who, a very few months after, fell a ſacrifice to the paſſions of his capricious and arbitrary maſter. It is well known that this able ſtateſman was of a very mean extraction. His ſucceſs in life prompted him to endeavour to ſupport the dignity of the ſtem that was to ſpring from his ennobled root; but he had the mortification of feeling that "root nipped by a killing froſt, and to ſee the tender leaves of his hopes fall." For being, without the form of a trial, attainted of High Treaſon, all his lands were forfeited to the crown, and he ſuffered upon the ſcaffold. And though the King, poſſibly from a conſciouſneſs of his harſh and injurious treatment of the father, created the ſon a peer, he never reſtored to him any part of the Kentiſh eſtate. At the time of his attainder, the Earl was poſſeſſed of the manors of Eaſthall in Orpington, of Rokeſly, (a ſmall pariſh, ſince united to Northcray) of Goldſtone in Aſh, near Sandwich, and of Wallingherſt and Buckherſt in Frittenden; it can, therefore, be no difficult matter to prove, that theſe manors are, by act of parliament exempted from that fundamental rule of Gavelkind law,—the right of all the ſons to inherit equal portions of the father's lands.

Poets have rarely exerciſed their talents upon a law theſis; but Gavelkind has been honoured with a bard to celebrate its praiſes. His name was Hawke, and from his choice of the ſubject, he may be reaſonably ſuppoſed to have been a native of Kent. The branch of the cuſtom of Gavelkind already ſtated he has deſcribed in the following lines; and though the traditionary account of the moving wood at Swanſcombe, as a mere Canterbury tale, may be unworthy to be recorded by the hiſtoric muſe,

muſe, the author certainly did not tranſgreſs a poetical licence in adopting it.

> Cuſtom in Kent encouraging the brave,
> Diſtinguiſh'd well the brother from the ſlave;
> And to each ſon an equal fortune gave.
> With juſt regard—ſince the ſame am'rous fire
> Caus'd the laſt birth, that did the firſt inſpire.
> The gen'rous youth, pleas'd with ſuch equal laws,
> Fought for their honour, and their country's cauſe,
> With ſuch reſiſtance, that the French brigade
> Which conquer'd Harold, durſt not Kent invade,
> But ſolemn peace with oaken ſquadrons made;
> Granted thoſe laws for which the patriot ſtrove,
> And kiſs'd the Goſpel to the moving grove*.

At the anniverſary Kentiſh Meeting, held in London, November 20th, 1701, there ſeems to have been a kind of pageant commemorative of this ſtory. It is, at leaſt, implied in an expreſſion that occurs in a ſermon preached on that occaſion, by Dr. Stanhope, who was afterwards Dean of Canterbury. And as the paſſage referred to contains an admonition that deſerves the attention of Engliſhmen in all ages, no apology is requiſite for inſerting it. "As we have," obſerves the preacher, "the peculiar honour of retaining, to this day, indelible monuments of freedom; ſo let us remember, that

* It is rather unlucky for our Kentiſh poet, that this account of the oaken ſquadrons of his countrymen marching in battle array at Swanſcombe can hardly fail of recalling to the memory of his readers, the moving of

"Great Birnam-wood to Dunſinane's high hill,"

as foretold by the wayward ſiſters to Macbeth, and deſcribed with the magic pen of the Warwickſhire bard.

thoſe monuments are owing to the unanimous reſolutions of them, who reſolved, as one man, rather to ſubmit to death than diſhonourable conqueſt. Had they then divided into parties and factions, the compoſition of Swanſcombe had never found a place in our annals, nor the *Memorial of that moving wood added to this day's pomp.*"

The diſgavelling acts of parliament before referred to, diveſted the lands in Kent of their partible property only, without in the leaſt affecting any of the other qualities incident to them, becauſe not expreſsly altered by the letter of the law: for elſe, inſtead of a benefit which the acts intended (they being made on the petition of the perſons named in them) the owners of Gavelkind lands would ſuffer a great prejudice by the loſs of their former privileges. Theſe latter are ſtyled ſpecial or collateral cuſtoms, in order to diſtinguiſh them from the general one of partibility which is eſſential to an eſtate in Gavelkind. Of theſe ſpecial properties one is, that lands in Kent do not eſcheat to the King, or other lord of whom they are holden, in caſe of a conviction and execution for felony. But the heir of a tenant in Gavelkind, notwithſtanding the offence of his anceſtor, ſhall enter immediately, and enjoy the lands by deſcent after the ſame cuſtoms and ſervices, by which they were before holden. This peculiar immunity is compriſed in the old ſignificant, though vulgar, proverb,

The father to the bough,
And the ſon to the plough.

Or, as it is ſomewhat differently expreſſed in a manuſcript copy of the Cuſtoms of Kent, in Lincoln's-Inn library,

The

The fader to the bonde,
And the ſon to the londe *.

This privilege does not, however, extend to treaſon; for, if a perſon be any way attainted of this high offence, his Gavelkind lands, notwithſtanding the uſage, are forfeited to the crown. Nor are his heirs entitled to them, if their anceſtor, being indicted for a felony, becomes an outlaw by abſconding; and in the times of popery, if the tenant had taken refuge in ſome conſecrated place, and abjured the realm, the immunity ceaſed. Before an offender could avail himſelf of the plea of ſanctuary, he was obliged to make a full confeſſion of the crime laid to his charge, and flight always carries with it a ſtrong preſumption of guilt. There being, then, in both theſe inſtances, an endeavour to interrupt, if not ſuppreſs, the legal courſe of juſtice, it was judged neceſſary that the offenders ſhould be rendered incapable of tranſmitting their property by the law of a country which they had openly or tacitly renounced.—By the like cuſtom, a wife's dower in lands by the nature of Gavelkind is in no caſe forfeitable for the felony of her huſband, but where the heir would be debarred of his inheritance. Anciently this was a privilege almoſt peculiar to the widows of tenants in Gavelkind; nor was the ſeverity of the common law mitigated in this particular, till the firſt year of the reign of Edward VI. when a ſtatute was paſſed, allowing every wife her dower,

* Mr. Haſted, in the Preface to his Hiſtory, p. cxlii. thus expreſſes the proverb:

The father to the Bondes,
And the ſon to the Landes.

Suppoſing this to be the true reading, as a rhime was certainly intended, is it not probable that our anceſtors pronounced *a* like *o*, or the reverſe.

notwithſtanding her huſband's having been attainted of felony.

In the proportion of the lands, or of the rent thereof aſſigned for dower, there ever was, and ſtill is, a material difference between ſuch as are Gavelkind, and thoſe which are not within that rule. By the common law, a widow has a right to a third part only of her huſband's real property; but by the law of Gavelkind, a moiety is due of all the eſtates poſſeſſed by the huſband at the marriage, and at any time during the coverture.—There is, however, one diſadvantage in ident to dower in Gavelkind, to which the dowries of lands holden under many other tenures are not ſubject; namely, that a tenant of the former does not enjoy it abſolutely for life, but only as long as ſhe continues unmarried and chaſte. Some years ago a very circumſtantial proof of incontinency was required; and, before a forfeiture of dower could be incurred, it was neceſſary to attaint a widow of child-birth after the ancient uſage, which is thus ſet forth in Lambard's tranſlation of a manuſcript in French, entitled, The Cuſtumale of Kent,—" That if, when ſhe is delivered of a child, the infant be heard to cry, and that the hue and cry be raiſed, and the country be aſſembled, and have the view of the child ſo born, and of the mother, then let her loſe her dower wholly, and otherwiſe not, ſo long as ſhe holdeth her a widow; whereof, it is ſaid in Kentiſh——

" He that doth wende her, let him lende her *."

* In two other copies of the Cuſtumale, we meet with a different reading of this proverb.—In one it is, Sey is wedne, ſey is levedne.—In the oth r, Seye is wedne, ſey is lenedy.—And Mr. Haſted, in the Preface to his Hiſtory, p. 142, gives it more intelligibly thus:

He that doth turn or wend her,
Let him alſo give unto her, or lend her.

At

At preſent, however, without producing evidence of this caſual effect of a breach of chaſtity, a widow in Gavelkind may be deprived of her dower; it is ſufficient to ſhew that ſhe has been caught tripping.

Whilſt a greater latitude was allowed, attempts ſeem to have been frequently made to avoid a detection by the widow's withdrawing to lie-in at ſome remote place; and particularly in the reign of Edward III. Roberge, late wife of John at Combe, is upon record for averring that ſhe ought to retain her dower, becauſe her ſpurious babe was not heard to cry within the four walls of any of the tenements of which ſhe was endowed. Whether this ingenious evaſion was contrived by the faulty defendant, or ſuggeſted to her by a ſhrewd lawyer, is not mentioned; but it appears that the jury would not admit of the validity of the plea, leſt the condition ſhould be generally rendered of very little effect. The heir to the eſtate not having, however, raiſed the county by hue and cry within the limited time, the notable dame had, through his neglect, a verdict in her favour. This cuſtom, which is by ſome writers ſtyled the Kentiſh widow's free-bench, is of that kind of tenure, which Lord Coke humouroufly obſerves to be the moſt frail and ſlippery of any in England; and it can hardly have eſcaped the reader's attention, that it is a more rigorous rule than the free-bench of the manors of Eaſt and Weſt Enborne, in Berkſhire*; becauſe in theſe, widows, after a default, may recover their land again by the benefit of the black ram. As the tenants in dower of Gavelkind muſt incur an irreverſible forfeiture of it by entering a ſecond time into the happy ſtate, it cannot be matter of ſurprize

* Spectator, No. 623.

that many of them ſhould have been ſolicitous to be permitted to accept of the third part of the land for life under the common law, inſtead of the half, ſubject to ſuch an unreaſonable and cruel reſtriction; but the cuſtomary condition in Kent being judged to be for the benefit of the heir to the eſtate, all theſe attempts to wave the moiety have failed.

In the different terms of reſtraint impoſed upon the two ſexes by the Gavelkind law, there is a notorious partiality. A widow muſt keep herſelf not only ſole *, but chaſte, or ſhe loſes her dower; but a widower, if he has a ſufficient degree of reſolution to avoid forming a ſecond matrimonial connection, may, without poſſeſſing the gift of continence, remain, by the courteſy of Kent, a tenant to half of the lands that belonged to his deceaſed wife.—This diſtinction with reſpect to the ſame ſort of tenure was probably ſettled by our Saxon anceſtors in the Wittena Gemot, or meeting of their wiſe men; but had the wiſe women of that age been preſent at their deliberations, and not churliſhly debarred the proper uſe of their natural power of ſpeech, they might, poſſibly with ſucceſs, have remonſtrated againſt the want of equity in the deciſion of this aſſembly. Theſe ſage legiſlators would ſurely have found it extremely difficult to aſſign a plauſible reaſon why the free-bench of both male and female relicts ſhould not be alike forfeitable for a ſimilar offence; and why, upon a rumour of an in-

* Some widows formerly ſeem to have acquired the title of *vowes*, by making a ſolemn profeſſion to continue ſole. The indenture of ſettlement of the foundreſs of the free-ſchool at Nottingham begins: "To all Chriſtian people, to whoſe knowledge the preſent writing ſhall come to be ſeen or read, Agnes Meller widow, and *vowes*, ſendeth greeting." It is dated November 22, 1513.——*Deering's Hiſtory of Nottingham*, p. 154.

creaſe

creaſe of family in a widower's tenement of the nature of Gavelkind, the country ſhould not be raiſed by hue and cry, and an inquiſition made by a jury of diſcreet matrons, whether maſter or man were the father of the little puling ſtranger.

Another diſtinguiſhing property of Gavelkind is, that the tenant is of ſufficient age to alienate his eſtate at the age of fifteen years; but it muſt be by feoffment, that being a method of conveyance of every other the moſt proper, when there may be any ſuſpicion of fraud and impoſition. This privilege makes the tenant ſome compenſation for his being kept in ward one year longer than is permitted by the courſe of the common law; and infants in Gavelkind always enjoyed ſeveral advantageous immunities formerly denied to other perſons during their minority.—In the Cuſtumale of Kent, the noble uſage claimed in behalf of wards is expreſſed in the following terms:—" And if the heir or heirs ſhall be under the age of fifteen years, let the nutriture be committed by the lord to the next of the blood to whom the inheritance cannot deſcend, ſo that the lord take nothing for the committing thereof. And let not an heir be married by the lord, but by his own will, and by the advice of his friends, if he will.—And when ſuch heir or heirs ſhall come to the full age of fifteen years, let their lands and tenements be delivered to them, together with their goods, and with the profits of the ſame lands remaining above their reaſonable ſuſtenance: of which profits and goods, let him be bound to make anſwer which hath the education of the heir, or elſe the Lord, or his heirs, which committed the ſame education."

The invaluable benefits of theſe privileges of the tenants in Gavelkind cannot be more clearly ſhewn than

by contraſting with them the burdens of the military tenure, which are thus repreſented by the learned author of the Commentary on the Laws of England*.—" The heir," remarks Sir William Blackſtone, " on the death of his anceſtor, if of full age, was plundered of the emoluments ariſing from his inheritance, by way of *relief* and *primer ſeiſin*; and, if under age, of the whole of his eſtate during infancy." And then, as Sir Thomas Smith very feelingly complains†, *when he came to his own, after he was out of wardſhip, his woods decayed, houſes fallen down, ſtock waſted and gone, lands let forth and ploughed to be barren:* " to make amends, he was yet to pay half a year's profits as a fine for ſuing out his livery; and alſo the price or value of his marriage, if he refuſed ſuch wife as his lord and guardian had bartered for, and impoſed upon him; or twice that value, if he married another woman.—And when by theſe deductions this fortune was ſo ſhattered and ruined, that perhaps he was obliged to ſell his patrimony, he had not even that poor privilege allowed him, without paying an exorbitant fine for a *licence* of *alienation*."—Thus rigorous and oppreſſive were the conditions of knight or military ſervice, a tenure which almoſt univerſally prevailed throughout England from the times of the Norman princes to the middle of the laſt century. For though ſome of the grievances of that fœdal ſyſtem were occaſionally mitigated by different acts of parliament, they were not all aboliſhed by the legiſlature till the 12th of Charles II. It cannot then be denied that the Men of Kent, in former ages, deſerve great commendation from their poſterity for their ſpirited conduct, in preſerving their eſtates

* Book ii. c. 5. † Commonw. l. iii. c. 5.

from

from a mode of ſervitude ſo complicated and diffuſive, however honourable it might be eſteemed.

But their attention and firmneſs was not confined to the ſecuring of the rights of the proprietors of land in Gavelkind only, they likewiſe maintained an old claim highly favourable to Kentiſh Men in general.—"That all the bodies of Kentiſh Men be free, as well as the other free bodies of England," is the firſt article of the Cuſtumale. This privilege extended to every native in the county, and to their children; and a glorious and valuable immunity it muſt be allowed to have been, at a period when many people in the kingdom were held in an hereditary ſtate of bondage; when the lords of manors exerted a legal power of claiming, recovering, and transferring the perſons of villains, as well as their horſes and their oxen.

In ſpecifying ſeveral of the peculiar uſages of the county of Kent, there is another privilege which redounds ſo much to the honour of its ancient inhabitants, that it ought not to be paſſed by unnoticed; namely, their well-founded pretenſion to be placed in the vanguard of the King's army. Fuller, in his Worthies, notices the proverb of a Man of Kent, and thus explains it. "This relates to the liberty or courage of the Kentiſh Men. As for the firſt, they know not the tenure of villenage. As to the latter, ever ſince the time of Canutus, till Henry II. they had the precedency of marching in our Engliſh armies to lead the van. And again—In former times, the leading of the front in armies abſolutely belonged to the Men of Kent. When the Corniſh had that privilege, in the time of King Arthur, it was only temporary; and when the Men of Archenfield, in Herefordſhire, preſcribed to have it, that

that was only local, as being confined to the Welſh wars." This poſt of hazardous pre-eminence and glory is agreed to have been aſſigned them as a reward of the ſignal courage and ſteadineſs they ſhewed in various conflicts with the Danes. The diſcontinuance of the old method of drawing out the military forces of England according to their counties, has cauſed ſo long a ſuſpenſion of the exercciſe of this right of the Men of Kent, that it was judged to be obſolete; or, at leaſt, was not allowed, in the late war, when the camps were formed. It may, however, with the ſtricteſt regard to truth, be affirmed, that they have never forfeited this precedency by any miſbehaviour; and it was the turn of the dice which, in the campaign of 1778, reduced the two battalions of the militia of our county from the 1ſt to the 12th regiment of this uſeful corps of men.

At the end of this treatiſe of the law of Gavelkind, Mr. Robinſon has remarked, that it is on account of the two laſt mentioned privileges the poet Drayton beſtows the following honourable eulogium on the county.

Of all the Engliſh ſhires be thou ſirnam'd the free,
And foremoſt ever plac'd, when they ſhall reckon'd be.

This detail of the cuſtoms of the Men of Kent ſhall be concluded with a few elegant verſes relating to them, in the peruſal of which even thoſe travellers cannot avoid receiving pleaſure, to whom the digreſſion from their tour may have appeared unentertaining and tedious. The lines are inſcribed upon the walls of the root-houſe in the grounds of Lord Amherſt, baron of Holmeſdale, at his ſeat called Montreal, near Sevenoaks, and are ſaid to have been written by his Lordſhip's ſiſter,

Mrs.

Mrs. Thomas, relict of the Rev. Mr. Thomas, late rector of Notgrove, in Glouceſterſhire.

While neighb'ring heights aſſume the name,
Of conquer'd lands well known to fame,
Here mark the valley's winding way,
And liſt to what old records ſay.
" *This winding vale of Holm'ſdale*
" *Was never won, nor ever ſhale.*"
The prophecy ne'er yet has fail'd,
No human power has e'er prevail'd
To rob this valley of its rights,
Supported by its val'rous wights.
When foreign conqueſt claim'd our land,
Then roſe our ſturdy Holm'ſdale band
With each a brother oak in hand;
An armed grove the conqu'ror meet,
And for their ancient charter treat,
Reſolv'd to die, ere they reſign'd
Their liberties in Gavelkind.
Hence freedom's ſons inhabit here
And hence the world their deeds revere.
In war and every virtuous way,
A *Man of Kent* ſtill bears the day.
Thus may our queen of valleys reign,
While *Darent* glides into the main.
Darent, whoſe infant reed is ſeen
Uprearing on yon boſom'd green!
Along his winding banks may peace
And joyful plenty never ceaſe!
Where'er his waters roll their tide,
May heav'n-born Liberty reſide.

In the progreſs of this tour Northfleet is the pariſh contiguous to Swanſcombe, but between the hills upon which theſe two places are ſituated, there is a vale that has ſome claim to the traveller's notice. A curſory view of this tract of marſh land will convince him, that here might formerly have been an inlet to the Thames; and he will therefore be inclined to admit as a very probable opinion, that there was once a channel through it, navigable for veſſels of ſome burden. In the account of the Roman road, (p. 56) ſome notice was taken of the traditionary report of the Danes having, in their ſhips, proceeded up this valley as far as to a place called Springhead, in Southfleet, not far from which a Roman mile-ſtone was diſcovered a few years ago. It ſtood upright in the ground, with its crown about four or five inches below the ſurface. It was two feet and a half long; two of its ſides were ſixteen inches each, the other two fourteen; its corners were chiſelled, but its faces were very ruſtic; however, upon one of its ſides there was a fair X cut, which was undoubtedly to ſhew that it ſtood ten miles from ſome particular place. Such is the deſcription in Mr. Thorp's Antiquities, p. 251, from a letter written to him by the late Mr. Landon, a clergyman long reſident in Southfleet, who examined the ſtone ſoon after it was taken up*; and he offers it as a convincing proof, that the ſite of the *Vagniacæ* muſt have been near where this ſtone was fixed, becauſe ten miles is nearly the diſtance between Southfleet and Rocheſter, or Durobrovis, from which ſtation may be inferred, that the Romans began the reckoning of their miles. In order to obviate

* A figure of this ſtone is given in Dr. Ducarel's Normandy; and on a ſmaller ſcale, in Mr. Thorpe's Antiquities, plate xxxii. fig. 18. page 148.

the

the objection, that *Noviomagus* could not, in that caſe, be at Crayford, that ſtation being eight, and not eighteen miles from *Vagniacæ*, as mentioned in the Itinerary, by Biſhop Gibſon. Mr. Landon, with reaſon, concludes that there is an error of ten miles in this computation, becauſe when in the ſame Itinerary the diſtances between *Londinum* and two other ſea-ports in Kent are given, the road between *Londinum* and *Durobrovis* being common to them all, the diſtance from one of theſe places to the other is ſummarily ſet at only twenty-eight miles. But to return to Spring-head, in Southfleet: it may be alſo obſerved, that the termination *Fleet* forcibly implies the waters having flowed within the limits of this pariſh, and the church of Southfleet having been dedicated to St. Nicholas, the tutelar ſaint of mariners and fiſhermen, adds weight to this notion. When a ſtrong tide flowed up this valley, the paſſage over the water muſt have been always troubleſome, and ſometimes hazardous; and this will partly account for the Romans having carried the Watling-ſtreet beyond Spring-head. But, after the channel at the bottom of Northfleet-hill became more eaſily fordable by the decreaſe of the æſtuary, it might be thought adviſeable to deviate thus far from the ancient road. At preſent there is only a rivulet that empties itſelf into the Thames, over which a ſtone bridge was erected many years ago.

Near this bridge, in May 1648, there was an engagement between the Royaliſts and the army raiſed by Parliament, in which the latter were victorious. (*Gough's Britiſh Topography*, vol. I. p 495.) The bridge being very inconveniently placed, a new brick arch was, not long ſince, turned over the ſtream. The road was at the ſame time greatly improved, and the aſcent to North-

fleet

fleet rendered much eaſier. The twentieth mile-ſtone was placed at the bottom of the hill; but, on a late re-meaſurement of the road, it is removed forward. The ſites of all the mile-ſtones ſince the alteration are marked in the map.

Near the ſummit of the hill, the traveller has a view of the ſeats of Charles Lefevre, and Francis Wadman, Eſqrs. Mr. Lefevre's houſe is vulgarly ſtiled the Orm, but Ormus is its proper appellation, from Ormus, at the entrance of the Perſian Gulph. Though tradition has not preſerved the name of the perſon to whom it owes its origin and its denomination, the report is, that his life being ſaved in a ſhipwreck, he declared, that wherever he ſhould land on his return home, he would build a houſe, and that it ſhould be called Ormus, in memory of his deliverance upon that iſland. There is alſo a corruption in the name of Mr. Wadman's houſe, for it ſhould be Hithe, and not Hive, as it is generally termed. For many years it was in the poſſeſſion of the family of Chiffinch, and Mr. Wadman is entitled to it by marrying one niece of the late proprietor, who was a Barriſter at Law, and Recorder of Graveſend. Mr. Wadman has enlarged and much improved the houſe, and, it is ſaid, has it in contemplation to erect another ſpacious and elegant room. At the gate entering into his grounds, he has conſtructed two lodges upon a plan rather ſingular: one of them is to be inhabited by a cottager, and the other uſed for an occaſional reception of his friends. It is obvious it cannot command ſo good a view of the river as can be had in many of the apartments in his delightfully ſituated manſion.

The village of Northfleet, though recorded in Doomſday-book, does not appear to have been more conſiderable

able than it is at preſent. The church of this place is uncommonly large, and contains the fragments of monuments as ancient as the fourteenth century. On the North-wall is a beautiful alabaſter monument to the memory of Edward Browne, who reſided at Ingreſs, and lies interred in this church; he was phyſician to Charles II. and eminent for his ſkill in natural hiſtory, as appears from his travels which he publiſhed in 1685. The preſent ſteeple was erected in 1717, in the room of an old tower which had a ſingle ſpire. It is manifeſtly too low and heavy in proportion to the reſt of the building, but has in it ſix tuneable bells, caſt a few years ago. From the leads of the ſteeple, there is an extenſive proſpect, and as beautifully diverſified, as, perhaps, can be met with in any part of the road. This pariſh, and the hamlet of Greenhithe, noticed in a former page, are well known, and have been long diſtinguiſhed, on account of the vaſt quantities of lime with which they ſupply the builders in London. But the practice, in former days, was to ſend the chalk in its natural ſtate to be converted into lime, near the places where it was to be uſed. —"By the diligence of Ralph Joſſeline, Mayor of London, in the year 1417, the wall about London was new made, between Aldgate and Cripplegate; he cauſed the Moreſield to be ſearched for clae and bricks: he alſo cauſed chalke to be brought out of Kent, and in the ſame Moore-field to be burnt into lime, for the furtherance of the work."—*Holinſhed's Chronicle*, vol. iii. p. 702. From the immenſe quantities of chalk, which, for the purpoſes of building and manuring, and for ballaſt, have been cut away in different directions, a ſcene is exhibited perfectly romantic, and to ſtrangers not a little dreadful. In the progreſs of this buſineſs, numerous foſſils are dug and diſcovered,

principally of the echinus ſpecies, ſuch as nipples, pencils, &c. as alſo the gloſſe-petra, or ſhark's tooth, moſt curiouſly poliſhed, and ſharp as thorns; theſe are often collected by naturaliſts, at an inconſiderable expence, as they are chiefly the property of the chalk-cutters and other labourers. But what is much more remarkable, in the flint ſtones, (whereof there are frequent ſtrata, and which are here wrought up into flints for guns, &c.) complete cockle ſhells, filled with chalk, are found; and ſometimes of ſo large a ſize, as to be eſteemed of great curioſity by perſons fond of this part of natural philoſophy.

But before the traveller paſſes the Leather bottle, it may not be amiſs to apprize him, that, if he would look down the wide road on his right hand that leads to Southfleet, he may catch a view of the tower of that church. This pariſh was formerly inhabited by ſeveral perſons of large eſtates. Some of the old family ſeats have been taken down within memory, and other venerable manſions are converted into farm-houſes. The Biſhops of Rocheſter were poſſeſſed of the manor of Southfleet before the conqueſt. One of the prelates ſettled it on the priory of his cathedral, and it belonged to that religious houſe at the time of its diſſolution. The liberty of the Biſhops of that ſee always claimed here; and, as not unuſual in ancient times, the court of Southfleet had a power of trying and executing felons. This juriſdiction extended not only to acts of felony done within the vill, but alſo over criminals apprehended there, though the fact had been committed in another county. An inſtance of the exerciſe of this claim in the year 1200 is mentioned by T. Blunt, in his ancient Tenures and Cuſtoms of Manors. It was of two women who had

ſtolen

ſtolen a quantity of clothes in Croindene (ſuppoſed to be Croydon in Surry) and the men of that place having purſued them to Southfleet, they were there ſeized, impriſoned, and tried by the Lord Henry de Cobham, and many other diſcreet men of the country; who adjudged them to undergo the fire ordeal, or examination of the hot iron. By this fooliſh and impious teſt of innocence, one of them was exculpated, and the other was condemned, and afterwards drowned in a pond called Bikepool. The two chief ſpecies of trial by ordeal, were thoſe of fire and water; the former being, in the opinion of ſome learned writers, confined to perſons of high rank, and the latter only uſed for the common people. But if the caſe of the two female thieves at Southfleet be truly related, it is rather probable that this diſtinction was not ſtrictly obſerved. Both theſe modes might be performed by deputy; but the principal was to anſwer for the ſucceſs of the trial; the deputy only venturing ſome corporal pain, for hire, or perhaps for friendſhip. "This," obſerves the author of the Commentary on the Laws of England, (book iv. ch. 27.) "is ſtill expreſſed in that common form of ſpeech, of going through fire and water to ſerve another." Fire ordeal was performed either by taking up in the hand, unhurt, a piece of red-hot iron, of one, two, or three pounds weight; or elſe by walking bare-foot, and blindfold, over nine red-hot ploughſhares, laid lengthways, at unequal diſtances; and if the party eſcaped being hurt, he was adjudged innocent; but, if it happened otherwiſe, he was then condemned as guilty. No doubt there was generally a colluſion in this and every mode of trial of this nature; but the guilty, eſpecially if rich, had a much greater chance of being clear-

ed than the innocent, as the former would be much more apt to have recourſe to artifice than the latter.—Water ordeal was performed, either by thruſting the bare arm into boiling water as high as the elbow, and if the perſon was not ſcalded he was pronounced innocent; or the accuſed perſon was thrown, with a rope about the waiſt, into a river or pond of cold water; if he ſunk, he was acquitted; but if he floated therein, with any action of ſwimming, it was a ſufficient proof of criminality, becauſe they judiciouſly concluded, the pure water would not admit of a guilty wretch into it. The traditional relics of the water ordeal may be eaſily traced out in the ignorant barbarity ſtill practiſed to diſcover witches, by caſting them into a pool of water, and drowning them to prove their innocence.

In the conſiſtorial acts of the dioceſe of Rocheſter, under the year 1585, there is a curious entry of a preſentment of defamation againſt two men of Deptford, for reporting three women of that pariſh to be witches, and the reaſon they gave for thinking them to be ſo, was, "that either of them kept a monſtrous tode.*" The judge who preſided does not appear to have been entirely ſatis-

* Thus in Macbeth, Act IV. Scene 1. The firſt witch begins the inchantment with the following lines:

Round about the cauldron go,
In the poiſon'd entrails throw.
Toad, that under the cold ſtone,
Days and nights has thirty-one;
Swelter'd venom ſleeping got,
Boil thou firſt i'th' charmed pot.

Upon which paſſage, Dr. Johnſon makes this remark, "Toads have long lain under the reproach of being by ſome means acceſſary to witchcraft; for which reaſon *Shakeſpeare*, in the firſt ſcene of his play, calls one of the ſpirits *padocke* or *toad*, and now takes care to put a toad firſt into the pot. When Vaninus was ſeized at Thoulouſe, there was found at his lodgings *ingeno bufo vitro incluſus, a great toad ſhut in a vial*; upon which, thoſe that proſecuted *veneficium exprobrabant*, charged him, I ſuppoſe, *with witchcraft*."

fied

fied that this was of itſelf a competent proof of the offence; but as one of the dames was not only "ſomewhat ſuſpected of witchcraft," but alſo accuſed of being a notable ſcold, which was probably true, though ſhe denied the charge, ſhe was ordered to appear on the next court-day, with ſix good women for her compurgators, and likewiſe admoniſhed to reſort to the miniſter every Sunday or holiday, to teſtify her faith.

At a little diſtance from Northfleet, on the South ſide of the road, the traveller will diſcern a ſeat, commonly pronounced Wimble Hall, but the proper name is Wombwell, from Thomas Wombwell, who, in the year 1471, erected here a ſtately manſion; but the preſent edifice was built in 1663, by James Fortrye, Eſq. in whoſe family this eſtate long continued; and to the memories of ſeveral of them monuments are erected in the church of Northfleet, the parochial diſtrict in which this houſe is ſituated. It has for ſome time been held under leaſe, and was lately improved and inhabited by Mr. George Saunders; who, in 1779, whilſt engaged in the buſineſs of a farmer and maltſter, in Darenth pariſh, had a prize of ten thouſand pounds in the lottery. Such a ſudden mode of acquiring great wealth has not always been found entitled to the appellation of good fortune. Mr. Saunders, unhappily, had not a long trial of its effects, for he deceaſed in January 1782, and was buried in Southfleet church-yard, where, perhaps, may be recorded on his tomb-ſtone, or in the regiſter, ſo extraordinary an incident in the life of a native of that pariſh. Captain Elliott, an officer belonging to Tilbury fort, who was the next tenant of Wombwell Hall died very lately.—Near the twenty-ſecond mile-ſtone is a direction-poſt on the North ſide pointing out

the road, of a mile in length, which leads to Graveſend. But before we take a ſurvey of what may be worthy attention in that town, it will be needful to apprize ſuch as ſhall purſue the direct road towards Rocheſter, that, ere they reach the twenty-third mile-ſtone, on a ſmall riſe to the left of the road, is the manor-houſe of Parrocks, which anciently had an owner of that name; for, to Robert de Parrock, in whoſe poſſeſſion it then was, are the inhabitants of Graveſend indebted for the firſt grant of a market, which he obtained from King Henry III. in the 52d year of that Prince's reign. This manor was frequently in poſſeſſion of the Crown; and, by Richard II. was given to the abbey of St. Mary le Grace, on Tower hill; but ſince the ſuppreſſion of that religious community, it has been held by different families; and is now the property of the repreſentatives of Richard Coſens, Eſq —At a ſmall diſtance, and at the bottom of a verdant ſlope, is the neat and newly erected manſion of the manor of Milton, which at different periods was in the poſſeſſion of Sir Henry Wyat, the Lord Cobham, and other illuſtrious noblemen of this county, but is now the property of George Vaughan, Eſq.

To return to the road leading to Graveſend. The field to the left was the ſite of the ancient church of that pariſh; it is ſtill called Church-field, and is now Glebe-land, belonging to the Rector. The plough often turns up ruins of the building, and the bones of perſons buried in the adjoining cemetery. Its being placed at a very inconvenient diſtance for the greater number of the pariſhioners who reſided near the Thames, they obtained a licence from the ordinary to build, at their own expence, a chapel or oratory, dedicated to St. George the Martyr, and the lane leading from the Weſt-ſtreet to it,

is

is ſtill called Chapel-lane. The church was dedicated to St. Mary, and being burnt down, was rebuilt, and conſecrated by Biſhop Fiſher, April 3, 1510. In 1522, the churchwardens having neglected to ring the bells, a mark of reſpect always due to the dioceſan when he viſits a pariſh; the ſame Biſhop prohibited the celebration of divine offices in that church. On the delinquents pleading, that on the day of the viſitation, not only the churchwardens, but all the pariſhioners were ſummoned to appear before the King's officers on a commiſſion of array againſt the Scots and French, the interdict was relaxed. But the prelate at the ſame time averred, that the pariſh had been as remiſs at his laſt triennial viſitation; and he admoniſhed them to be in future more attentive and obedient in their duty concerning the premiſes; and that they ſhould warn their ſucceſſors to be alike cautious, under penalty of the law for their diſobedience*. This church being afterwards, by neglect, dilapidated, was taken down, and the chapel, of St. George became the parochial church, which was likewiſe deſtroyed, together with the greateſt part of the town, by a fire, which happened in Auguſt 1727†. The preſent elegant church was erected under an act of parliament, paſſed in 1731, and at the public expence, being conſidered as one of the fifty new churches, for the

* Archbiſhop Whitgift, in 1585, granted to Ambroſe Potter, of Graveſend, a licence to eat fleſh and white meats, during his life, with his wife; but with this proviſo, that he did it ſoberly and frugally, cautiouſly, and avoiding public ſcandal, as much as might be, and not to do it openly.

† The contributions for the relief of the poor ſufferers, by this deplorable calamity, were liberal and ſpeedy. The late King gave 1000l. and Queen Caroline 500l. to be diſtributed by the direction of the Duke of Dorſet. *(See Sermon preached in the New Church, February 11, 1732-33, by Thomas Harris, A. M. Rector*, p. 7. Note.)

building

building of which the Legiſlature had made a proviſion in the reign of Queen Anne.

Graveſend, by its ſituation on the banks of the Thames, and being the firſt port in that river, is advantageouſly placed for trade; it is diſtant twenty-two miles from London, ſeven from Dartford, and the like from Rocheſter. The pariſhes of Graveſend and Milton were incorporated in the 10th year of Queen Elizabeth, and are governed by a Mayor, twelve Jurats, and twenty-four Common Councilmen. Graveſend has a market every Wedneſday and Saturday; and a fair on the 23d of April, and 24th of October. The manor of Graveſend being in poſſeſſion of the Abbot of St. Mary le Grace, of Tower hill, and "he being willing," as Harris relates, "to promote the intereſt of the town, obtained of King Richard II. a grant to the men of Graveſend and Milton, of the excluſive privilege of conveying paſſengers from thence to London, on the conditions that they ſhould provide boats on purpoſe, and carry all perſons, either at two-pence per head with his bundle, or the whole boat's fare ſhould be four ſhillings." This charter has been confirmed by ſucceeding Princes, and under proper regulations they ſtill enjoy this advantageous privilege. The fare is now ninepence each paſſenger. The boats are large and commodious, and much improved within theſe few years; they are obliged to depart on the ringing of a bell a quarter of an hour; they go to London with every flood, and return from Billingſgate* on the like ſignal with every

* In Snelling's account of the copper coinage, he notices tradeſmen's tokens; and Plate V. No. 15, exhibits a penny, the obverſe of which is a tilted barge, with ſix oars, and the reverſe, *John Michell*, living at *Somers's Key*, near *Billingſgate*. From the device upon this token, it is not unlikely that John Somers might have had an intereſt in a tilt-boat.

ebb.

ebb. Coaches attend the arrival of the boats to convey paſſengers to Strood, Rocheſter, Chatham, &c. at 2s. each. The inhabitants of the three towns are leſs frequently paſſengers than they were formerly, when, from the badneſs of the roads, the ſtages, for the greater part of the year, were a whole day in travelling to London; not but at that time the conveyance by the tide coach and tilt boat was thought ſo ungenteel, that a perſon of any conſequence was offended at an inſinuation of his not having gone to town in what was called the throughout coach. Foreigners, it is believed, now ſeldom travel in any but the Dover carriages; but Jorevin, who was in England after the middle of the laſt century, mentions his taking, at Chatham, the ordinary coach for Graveſine, in order to embark there for London. Theſe travels were printed at Paris in 1673, and a tranſlation is publiſhed in the ſecond volume of the Antiquarian Repertory. The tranſlator's account of the author, is, that though he was a bad hiſtorian, he is a tolerable topographer. A miſtake in his ſhort deſcription of Graveſend will, however, be pointed out. In the year 1380, this town was burnt, and ſeveral of the inhabitants carried away by the French and Spaniards, who came up the Thames in row-gallies.—For the better command of the river, Henry VIII. raiſed a platform at Graveſend, and another at Milton, and two others over againſt them on the Eſſex ſide, at ſuch time as he fortified the other coaſts of the realm. (*Lambard's Perambulation*, p. 487.) Tilbury Caſtle, a ſtrong and regular fortification, was afterwards built on the Eſſex ſhore. Of the works at Graveſend, Jorevin writes thus: "Whilſt waiting we walked about the town, where we ſaw its *Strong Caſtle*, defended by ramparts and baſtions

of

of earth, furniſhed with a good number of cannons, and a great garriſon within it, as being a place of conſequence." The platforms mentioned by Lambard muſt be here alluded to, that could never have merited the appellation of a ſtrong caſtle.

Queen Elizabeth ordered the Lord Mayor of London, the Aldermen, and all the Companies, to receive all eminent ſtrangers and Ambaſſadors at Graveſend in their formalities, and attend them to London in their barges, if they went by water; if they went by land, they were to meet them on horſeback, in their gowns, on Blackheath.—The town-houſe, where all public buſineſs is tranſacted, is ſituated near the middle of the high-ſtreet on the Eaſt ſide; it was erected in 1764, and is an ornament to the town. In 1772 the inhabitants with great public ſpirit applied to the legiſlature for, and obtained an act for new paving and lighting the ſtreets; to this act they owe their preſent commodious and agreeable appearance.—All outward bound ſhips are obliged to caſt anchor before the town, 'till they have been examined by, and obtained proper clearances from ſearchers appointed for that purpoſe, who have an office near the town key: a centinel is alſo ſtationed at the blockhouſe below the town to give notice by the firing of a muſquet when ſhips are coming up the river, who are obliged to receive on board the officers of the cuſtoms, a number of which are conſtantly waiting here for that purpoſe.—The gardens round this town are ſo rich, that they not only ſupply the ſhipping with every article of that kind they ſtand in need of, but ſend great quantities to London; the aſparagus in particular is remarkably excellent.—The town is alſo well ſupplied with fiſh.

Milton

Milton church is ſituated at the end of an agreeable encloſed walk to the Eaſt of the town. The attention which the pariſhioners have for ſome years paſt paid both to the preſervation and decent appearance of this edifice is deſerving of commendation. Over the porch, and cloſe to the road leading from Graveſend to Rocheſter, a few years ago was erected a South dial, Weſt eight degrees, with its furniture; conſtructed by Mr. Giles, maſter of Graveſend free-ſchool. A conciſe deſcription of the various lines on which, may not be unacceptable. —The curve lines (which are conical ſections) that run acroſs the dial, are called parallels of the length of the day, and are eleven in number; the uppermoſt is the tropic of Capricorn, and is marked at both ends with its proper character. The others next below, are numbered 8, 9, 10, 11, and that with 12 is the equinoctial line, and has at one end the ſign of Aries, at the other end the ſign Libra. The other lines below theſe are marked 13, 14, 15, 16; and the lowermoſt line is the tropic of Cancer, diſtinguiſhed at both ends with its proper character. By the ſhadow of a ſmall ball, which is fixed on the ſtile called nodus, the ſeveral lengths of days are pointed out; as for example, when the ſhadow of the ball falls upon the upper line, the day is the ſhorteſt; when it falls on the next lower line, marked 8, the day is eight hours long; when on the line, marked 9, the day is nine hours long; and ſo of the reſt; and when the the ſhadow of the ball arrives at the lowermoſt line, the day is the longeſt.—The vertical, or upright lines, are called azimuth lines, and are marked at the bottom with the letters that denote the points of the compaſs; ſo that when the ſhadow of the ball falls on any one of theſe lines, it ſhews the ſun is upon *that* point of the compaſs,

paſs, which the letters denote, that correſpond with the line.

In Milton are the remains of an ancient Chantry Chapel, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and the apoſtles Peter and Paul. It was founded and endowed in the reign of Edward II. by Aymer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, for the health of his ſoul, and of the ſouls of his anceſtors, and was to conſiſt of a maſter and two chaplains, to whom a manſion was aſſigned. The chapel, built of flint and rag ſtones, is only ſtanding; the upper part is converted into lodging rooms, and below is the receptacle for holy water. A brick building, not long ſince erected, conceals the Gothic Eaſt window; but at the Weſt end, the window frames and munions, with ſtone mouldings, may be traced, though altered into a more ſquare and modern form, when the chapel became a dwelling-houſe. All the other parts of this chantry are deſtroyed, and on the ſite thereof are ſeveral buildings, particularly a large inn, called the New Tavern, which has adjoining to it a garden and bowling green, that commands a delightful view of that part of the Thames called the Hope, and ſeveral miles beyond it. The chalky cliffs which riſe boldly on the Kentiſh ſhore, with the more diſtant proſpect of the Eſſex hills, on the oppoſite coaſt, add greatly to the beauty of the ſcene.

About a mile from Milton, to the Eaſt of the road leading to Chalk, ſtands the manor houſe of Denton, a parochial diſtrict. The eſtate was in the priory of St. Andrew, Rocheſter, and granted by Henry VIII. to the Dean and Chapter of that cathedral. There are conſiderable remains of the church; the farm-yard is a part of the old cemetery, and by a cart-lodge built againſt the North wall, the door-way and windows are on that

ſide

ſide are ſtopped up. An engraving of it is inſerted in *Bibliothec. Topograph. Britann.* No. vi. p. 1. John Wildbore occurs Rector in 1523 and 1524, and he ſeems to have been the laſt perſon inſtituted to this benefice. In his time there was a parſonage houſe; this and the chancel were preſented as wanting repairs through his default; afterwards a curate ſupplied the church, and ſervice was performed in it in the laſt century.

When the traveller returns into the turnpike road, Chalk church, which ſtands on a little eminence between the 23d and 24th mile ſtones, is one of the firſt objects likely to catch the traveller's eye. The houſes in this pariſh, all of them at a diſtance from the church, do not exceed thirty; and as the diſtrict is very ſmall, it is not likely that they ever were more numerous, though the church is thought to have been formerly larger. The porch is remarkable for its capricious ornaments, but the date of them cannot from that circumſtance be inferred, becauſe the like chimerical and prepoſterous dreſſings are to be ſeen in buildings far more ancient than the church, from the ſtyle of architecture, appears to be; for inſtance, in the church of St. Peter, in Oxford, called Grymbadd's crynt, who was cotemporary with King Alfred, and in the under-roof of Canterbury Cathedral, that is thought to be of the ſame age, and perhaps may be of an earlier date. Similar carvings are alſo to be met with in churches in other parts of the kingdom, confeſſedly of different periods. In all of them the ſculptors regarded not the impropriety of the deſigns to the ſacred edifices they conceived themſelves to be embelliſhing; and in many, as in the ſpecimen before the traveller, the ludicrouſneſs and abſurdity of the ſubject is diſguſting. For on the crown of the arch

of the door-way is the figure of a jolly tippling fellow, holding a jug in his hands, and looking with a waggiſh and laughing countenance to a groteſque figure, in the attitude of a poſture-maker, placed above the centre of the moulding, as if pleaſed with his ſportive performances, and wiſhing to drink with him. Between theſe figures is a receſs, ornamented with a neat pointed Gothic arch and roſes, in which formerly ſtood an image of the Virgin Mary, to whom the church is dedicated*, though generally the image of the tutelar ſaint was placed in the chancel. It being, whilſt Popery prevailed, the practice for every perſon who entered the church, to make their obedience to an image ſituated as this is, it is aſtoniſhing that objects ſo extremely offenſive ſhould have been ſuffered to *remain*. In the nave, on a braſs plate, fixed in a ſtone, is an inſcription to the memory of William Martyn, who died May 16th, 1416, and of Iſabella, his wife. Weever relates, from its appearing on divers places on the glaſs, as alſo in the ſtructure, that Martyn was a good benefactor to the church.

After paſſing through Chalk Turnpike, the road on the left hand leads to Higham, Cliffe, Cowling, and into the Hundred of Hoo, which is the narrow tract of land ſituated between the Thames and Medway. Etymologiſts conjecture it to have taken its name from the Saxon word *ho*, or *hoh*, which ſignifies ſometimes a heel, and ſometimes the ham of the leg (whence the word *hough*, to hough or hamſtring) becauſe it runs out into a kind of a point like a heel, or lies in a bend between the two rivers, like a ham. But Mr. Pennant, in his account

*An engraving of the front view of this porch is publiſhed in Biblioth. Topograph. Britann. No. vi. p. 1.

of

of Luton Hoo, in Bedfordſhire, ſuggeſts that Hoo ſignifies a high ſituation, and that is applicable to the part of this diſtrict, which gives the name to the whole. Holinſhed the hiſtorian, who was a Kentiſh Man, has obſerved, according to Harris, that Hoo, in his time, was nearly an Iſland; and of the hundred of Hoo, he ſaid the people had this proverbial rhime.

"He that rideth in the hundred of Hoo,
"Beſides pilfering ſeamen, ſhall find dirt enow."

Within this hundred, is a pariſh which, as juſt noticed, bears the ſame name, but which anciently was more frequently denominated St. Werburgh, from the Saint to whom the church is dedicated. Mr. Brydges, in his Hiſtory of Northamptonſhire, p. 93, remarks, that St. Werburgh, or Werburge, was the daughter of king Wulphere, and ſet over a monaſtery of nuns at Wedon, in that county, by her uncle king Etheldred. By this authority, we are likewiſe informed, that St. Welburge is celebrated by ſome writers, for driving away the *geeſe* that uſed to infeſt the neighbourhood; and the vulgar ſuperſtitious now obſerve, that no *wild geeſe* are ever ſeen to ſettle or graze in Wedon field.

Higham has been, by ſome writers, rather improperly ſtyled Lillechurche, for Lillechurch was a diſtinct pariſh. There is, about a mile and a half from Higham church, and near the road to Cliffe, a farm-houſe that ſtill retains the name of Lillechurche; and there being behind the garden of the houſe a field called Church-place, in which human bones have been found, there can hardly be a doubt that this was the ſpot where the church was ſituated. The time of the union of the two pariſhes of

Higham and Lillechurche is not known; but moſt probably it was after Henry III. had granted the manor of Lillechurche, with all its liberties and cuſtoms, to a nunnery of the Benedictine order in Higham. This convent was founded before the year 1151, by King Stephen, whoſe daughter Mary ſeems to have preſided over it, before ſhe became Abbeſs of Romſey. For ſome time the ſociety conſiſted of ſixteen nuns, but at its diſſolution it was reduced to three or four. In the year 1513, Biſhop Fiſher viſited them in the chapter-room of their convent, and the perſons who appeared before him were the ſub prioreſs, two more of the nuns, and the old prioreſs. They were accuſed of a ſcandalous behaviour, nor did they deny the charge. They, however, with the moſt humble ſubmiſſion, repeatedly prayed that confinement within their houſes might be the puniſhment inflicted upon them; and, for certain juſt and lawful cauſes, they entreated his Lordſhip to direct their nunnery to be ſurrounded with a ſtone wall. The reaſons why this precaution ought to be uſed may be eaſily ſurmiſed, and it was probably owing to a want of it, that the conduct of the members of this ſiſterhood became notoriouſly abandoned. But they had rendered themſelves ſo infamous, that in the year 1521, it was judged neceſſary to ſuppreſs the community. Oppoſite the Eaſt end of the Church there is a farm houſe, of which the ſides and back-part are of ſtone, and diſcover marks of antiquity, having Gothic windows. This is thought to be only a ſmall portion of one of the offices belonging to the nunnery, there being in the field, on the South-ſide, many veſtiges of foundations. Plates of the North-weſt and South views of remains are publiſhed in Mr. Thorp's Antiquities. There is alſo ſtill ſubſiſting contiguous

tiguous to the farm-yard, ſome part of the thick ſtone wall, mantled with ivy, which encloſed the abbey, and was carried quite round the yard. Biſhop Fiſher, after the ſuppreſſion of this religious houſe, obtained from the crown for the lately founded college of St. John, in Cambridge, a grant of the manor of Higham, the ſite of the nunnery, the appropriation of the rectory of that pariſh, and the advowſon of the vicarage; and all of them are ſtill poſſeſſed by that learned body. By a final ſentence of conſolidation, dated in May 1523, the college were always to provide a prieſt to officiate daily in the chapel of the convent, and to celebrate on the four chief quarter days of every year, exequies and a maſs of requiem for the ſouls of their founders and benefactors; and leſt the needy and infirm might ſeem to be neglected in this ſolemn act of union, it was decreed, with the conſent of the maſter, fellows, and ſcholars of the college, that twelve-pence ſhould be by them diſtributed on every Michaelmas-day in the ſaid priory to the poor of Higham.

The church is much larger than is neceſſary for the accommodation of the pariſhioners, there not being above forty families in the diſtrict; there is, however, reaſon to believe that formerly the inhabitants were more numerous. In the north chancel, by the north wall, is an altar monument, on the wall over it a braſs tablet, with an inſcription to the memory of Robert Hylton, (yeoman of the guard to King Henry VIII.) who died December 3d, 1523. Prefixed are eight lines in metre, not written in a tongue unknown to the frequenters of a country church, but in Engliſh; and they were deſigned by the bard, though *with uncouth rhymes*,

To teach the ruſtic moraliſt to die.

They are as follow:

All thoſe that for my ſoul doth pray
To the Lord that died on Good Friday,
Graunte them and me, by their peticion,
Of our offences to have remiſſion.
Ye may perceive how, yn every age,
This lyffe ys but a pilgrimage
Toward hevyn, that ys eternall,
Whereunto God bringe us all. Amen.

It ſhould have been mentioned, that on the North ſide of the chancel of Eaſt Wickham church (ſee p. 33) there is a grave-ſtone with effigies in braſs of William Payne, of his three wives, Elizabeth, Johan, and Johan, and of his three ſons.—William Payne had been yeoman of the guard to the Queen, and deceaſed January 25th, 1568. The women are habited in the dreſs of the times, and their huſband is in the uniform of his corps, with trunth breeches and ſlippers, a ſword by his ſide, and having on his breaſt a roſe ſurmounted by a crown. He is repreſented as a corpulent man, with a thick beard and ruff. Mr. Thorpe apprehending this figure to be ſomewhat ſingular, perhaps the only one of the kind in any church, has perpetuated it by a copper-plate, impreſſions of which are inſerted in his Antiquities, p. 257. The inſcription is in Engliſh, and black letter, and concludes with theſe words, *To whom God graute a joefull reſurrection.*

Plautius, the Roman General under the Emperor Claudius, in the year 43, is ſaid to have paſſed the Thames from Eſſex into Kent near the mouth of it, with his army, in purſuit of the flying Britons, who were bet-

ter

ter acquainted with the firm and fordable parts of it than himſelf. From Eaſt Tilbury to Higham is by many ſuppoſed to have been the courſe of this paſſage. The probability of this having been a frequented ford in the time of the Romans is ſtrengthened by the viſible remains of a cauſſey, near thirty feet wide, leading from the bank of the Thames through the marſhes by Higham, Southward; and it ſeems to have been continued croſs the London high-road on Gad's-hill to Shorne Ridge-way*, about half a mile beyond which it joined the Roman Watling-ſtreet road, near the entrance into Cobham Park. The charge of maintaining that part of the cauſſey which was in the pariſh of Higham, as alſo of a bridge, was found before the Judges on their circuit, to belong to the prioreſs of the nunnery. (*Haſted's Hiſtory*, p. 258.) Between Tilbury and Higham there was a ferry for many ages; and accounts of it are to be met with as late as the reign of Henry VIII. before which Higham was a place much uſed for ſhipping and unſhipping of corn and goods in large quantities. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth there ſeems to have been a fort or bulwark at Higham for the defence of the river Thames; the yearly expence of which to her Majeſty, for the pay of captains, ſoldiers, &c. maintained in it was 28l. 2s. 6d. (*Haſted's Hiſtory*, p. 529)

Cliffe, the adjoining pariſh, is ſuppoſed by eminent hiſtorians to have been the Cloveſhoe, where many councils and provincial ſynods were held during the Saxon heptarchy. Other writers have, however, imagined that theſe clerical meetings were aſſembled at Abingdon,

* The name Ridgeway ſignifies the way to the ford or paſſage; Ryd and Rith, in old Engliſh, ſignifying a ford. HASTED.

which

which was anciently called Cloveſham. The perſons who adopted the former opinion, conceived Cloveſhoe to have denoted Clove, or Clive, near the Hundred of Hoo. At the conqueſt this place was certainly denominated Biſhops Clive; and it is alſo worthy of attention, that the rectors of Cliffe have had, for time immemorial, ſome privileges and powers rarely poſſeſſed by the incumbents of a country pariſh. Theſe two circumſtances afford a preſumptive proof of the Archbiſhops of Canterbury having, at an early period, reſided at Cliffe; and if ſo, it is not unlikely, that articles and laws reſpecting the doctrine and diſcipline of the church ſhould, at a very early period, have been conſidered and ſettled at that place. The manor of Cliffe, as far back as the reign of Edward the Confeſſor, belonged to the priory of Chriſt-church in Canterbury, and the Archbiſhop is now the patron of the living, which is in the Deanry of Shoreham, and of courſe ſubject to the peculiar juriſdiction of that ſee. But it is exempted from the authority of the Dean of the Arches, who is the commiſſary of that diſtrict, and the rector is only viſitable by the Archbiſhop at Cliffe. The rector is, in an old manuſcript, ſtiled the ordinary of his pariſh; and he exerciſes ſeveral branches of ordinary juriſdiction without any ſpecial commiſſion, though doubtleſs, of old, this right was veſted in his predeceſſors by a delegated power from the Archbiſhop. By himſelf, or his ſurrogate, he holds a court every year, ſoon after Eaſter, for the ſwearing in of the churchwardens, and he grants probates of wills, letters of adminiſtration, and licences. Dr. Rawlinſon, in his Engliſh Topographer, informs us, that a ſeal belonging to the Eccleſiaſtical Court of Cliffe pariſh, had been found upon Blackheath not long before the publi-

cation

cation of his book; and that the words of the inſcription in the old black letter, ſeemed to be as follow:

S. Officielet ✠ Jurisdictionis de liba poch de Clyff.

The author has alſo inſerted, from the original, an exact delineation of the ſeal, the impreſſion on which is a man's hand iſſuing out of a gown ſleeve (probably that of a Doctor of Laws) and holding a long ſtaff with a croſs fixed on the top of it. The date of the ſeal is not mentioned. The ſeal now uſed is very ancient; the device is a Biſhop ſtanding in baſket-work with his croſier. The inſcription is as follows:

S. PECULIARIS: IVRISDICTIONIS: RECTORIS: DE: CLIFF.

The church is a large and handſome building. It conſiſts of two ſide aiſles, a nave and chancel, all lofty and ſpacious. The roof is covered with lead, and the walls are embattled. At the Weſt end is a tower, very viſible from ſome parts of the road, in which is a clock and a ring of ſix bells. The caſe of an organ is remaining in the church. In the chancel there are remains of good painted glaſs, and on the roof the arms of Archbiſhop Arundel. Here are likewiſe ſix ſtalls like thoſe in cathedral churches, and the tradition of the place is, that they were formerly filled with a dean and five prebendaries. There are ſeats of this kind in many more parochial churches in Kent, as well as in other countries; and ſome writers have averred them to be indiſputable evidence of there having been in theſe pariſhes ſome colleges of prieſts, either ſecular or regular, though ſuch

ſuch fraternity may not be mentioned by any hiſtorians, nor any memorials preſerved of founders, or the rules and orders by which they were governed. But when theſe or ſome other concurrent proofs of a fixed community are wanting, is not the concluſion too haſtily drawn with reſpect to the ancient uſe of ſtalls in the chancels of country churches, and may not another reaſon be aſſigned for the conſtructing of them?

During the eſtabliſhment of Popery in England, it is well known that there was ſcarce a pariſh church which, beſides the high altar, had not one altar at leaſt, placed in the nave, or in an adjoining chapel, dedicated to ſome chimerical tutelary ſaint; and in many pariſhes there were chapels and chantries erected at a diſtance from the church. At theſe private altars the incumbents of the pariſhes were under no obligation to officiate; but generally chaplains and chantry prieſts were appointed for that purpoſe. They were ſeldom abſolutely independent of the rectors or vicars of the reſpective churches, and one article of ſubordination uſually required, was the aſſiſting occaſionally at the celebration of maſs at the high altar, and particularly on the chief feſtivals. The offices were at that time ſung or ſaid, not in the nave, or body of the church, but in the chancel; and the ancient ſeats or ſtalls which are ſtill remaining in many chancels, ſeem to have been the places where the incumbent and all the other clergymen connected with the church, performed them. And laymen, ſkilled in muſic, might be admitted into the chancel.

Mr. Haſted concludes theſe ſtalls to have been for the uſe of the Monks of Chriſt Church, Canterbury, to whom the manor of Cliffe belonged; and he adds, that ſuch ſtalls are frequently to be obſerved in the chancels

of

of churches where the great monaſteries had eſtates, and were always placed for the uſe of the Monks at ſuch times as they came to viſit their poſſeſſions. In the chancel of Stoke Bruce, in Northamptonſhire, there are, according to Mr. Brydges (*Hiſtory*, p. 325.) five ſtalls after the manner of a cathedral; and on each ſide of the chancel of Holdenby, in the ſame county, ſix ſtalls like thoſe in a collegiate church (p. 529). But it appears from that author, that the principal manors of theſe pariſhes were never in any religious community; and that the advowſons of the rectories were always in lay hands.

The pariſh of Cliffe is extenſive, and from the ruins of ſome buildings ſituated not far from the ſtreet, the town is imagined to have been larger than it is at preſent. Lambard mentions it to have ſuſtained great damage by a fire which happened in 1520, nor probably did it ever recover from that diſaſter. The number of inhabitants are are decreaſing yearly, and for want of them many houſes are decaying very faſt.

Not far from Cliffe is Cowling-caſtle, ſo named from the pariſh wherein it is ſituated. It was built by John Lord Cobham, who in 1399 obtained from Richard II. a licenſe for its erection. There is a tradition, that he, fearing his ſtrength might give ſome umbrage at court, to obviate it, cauſed the following lines to be cut on a ſcroll, with an appendant ſeal of his arms, in imitation of a deed or charter, and fixed on the eaſtermoſt tower of the chief entrance, where it is ſtill viſible, engraved on braſs.

Knoweth that hath and ſhall be
That I am made in help of the contre
In knowing of whiche thing
This is chartre and witneſſing.

In

In this caſtle reſided the pious and intrepid Sir John Oldcaſtle, who, in the Reign of King Henry V. fell a victim to Popiſh cruelty. In the Year 1553, Sir Thomas Wyat, in his inſurrection againſt Queen Mary, attempted to take this caſtle. Kilburn ſays, "the gate was "broke open with his ordnance, but it was ſo well de-"fended by the Lord Cobham, its owner, that Sir Tho-"mas was at length obliged to deſiſt. The ruins", ſays Harris, "ſhew it to have been a very ſtrong place, "and the moat round it is very deep. The gatehouſe "is ſtill ſtanding, which is fortified with a portcluſe, "or port-cullis, and machicolated; it hath alſo ſuch "kind of towers for its defence, as were uſed in thoſe "days". The preſent remains conſiſt of a handſome gate fronting the South, flanked by two round towers; on the Weſt are the walls of a ſquare fort, ſurrounded by a ditch or moat, formerly ſupplied with water from the Thames, but now almoſt choaked up. This building ſeems to have been independent of the gate, which probably led to the manſion, on the ſite whereof ſtands a farm houſe.

Shorne is on the Eaſt, the adjoining pariſh to Chalk. The village is ſituated on the South-ſide of the road; a windmill on an eminence points out its ſituation, and the lane leading up to it is not half a mile beyond the 25th mile-ſtone. The church ſtands under windmill-hill to the Eaſt, and its ſquare ſteeple is viſible from ſome parts of the road. In the South chancel of the church is an altar monument, on which is the portraiture of Sir Henry de Cobham le uncle*, lord Roundall, armed in mail and croſs-legged, with a lion paſſant at his feet; he was of eminence in the reigns of King Edward I. and II. There is in this church, a very curious old octangular font

font of Petworth marble. The pedeſtal has a handſome ſwelling moulding, upon which is a ſhaft with double pointed arches. Seven of the compartments of the baſin are embelliſhed with carvings in demi-relievo on the following ſubjects.—1. The Baptiſm of our Saviour, by St. John.—2. The Holy Lamb ſupporting a croſs and banner, and environed by a nimbus.—3. A Chalice, in it a wafer with the image of Chriſt, and that has the nimbus on its rim.—4. The Reſurrection of Chriſt.—5. J. H. S. an abbreviation of the name of Jeſus.—6. An Angel holding a pair of ſcales, in one of which is the figure of a good angel which preponderates; in the other, a figure with a groteſque face, no unuſual ſymbol of the evil ſpirit, who is found wanting in weight.—7. A Biſhop, bearing in his right hand a church, and in the left a key, conſequently deſigned to repreſent St. Peter, the tutelar Saint of Shorne church. If there are any figures in the eighth compartment, they are concealed by the pillar, againſt which the font is placed. In Southfleet church there is a font of a conſtruction ſo ſtrikingly ſimilar, that it is probable they are of the ſame age; plates are given of both fonts in Mr. Thorpe's Antiquities.

On the Weſt ſide of the lane, oppoſite to the houſe marked Mr. Mapleſden's, in the map, the traveller will probably notice an ancient chapel, or oratory. There can be no doubt of its having been a ſacred edifice, becauſe in digging for the foundation of the contiguous building, a ſtone coffin and many human bones were diſcovered. In Mr. Thorpe's Antiquities is an engraving of the North-weſt view of this chapel; but it is left to the reſearches of future antiquaries, to aſcertain when, and by whom it had its original; no deed, or other hiſ-

 torical

torical evidence, having yet been met with, relative to its inſtitution or endowment.

Roger de Norwood, who was in poſſeſſion of the manor of Shorne in the Reign of Henry III. changed its tenure from Gavelkind to that of Knight's ſervice, "by which tenure," ſays Philipott, "he was to carry a "white banner forty days toge.her, at his own charge, "whenever the King ſhould commence a war in Scot-"land." Through the village of Shorne is the direct road to Cobham, of which an account will be given in a ſubſequent page of this Tour.

As formerly when a Lord of a manor was willing to erect a church within the limits of his Juriſdiction, for the convenience of his family and tenants, ſuch a manorial diſtrict, with the conſent of the Biſhop, was rendered parochial, it is eaſy to account for there having been many more pariſhes than there are at preſent; becauſe ſeveral of the manors being ſmall, and from various circumſtances, having in a courſe of years fewer inhabitants; theſe were averſe to the heavy charge of keeping up the buildings, and the conſequence was, that they became ruinous. Within four miles of this part of the road, there were at no conſiderable diſtance from it, three pariſhes of this kind; Denton and Lillechurch already noticed, and Merſton, ſituated to the North of the hill the traveller is approaching. The church ſtood in the North Eaſt corner of a wood, very near the road now called Chapel Wood, and for more than three centuries this parochial diſtrict has been entirely deſtitute of inhabitants; for which reaſon, and becauſe there was no manſion houſe for the rector, Biſhop Lowe, in the year 1455, diſcharged him from reſidence, till there ſhould be a conflux of people to the place. But as the church was then

ſtanding

ſtanding, the Biſhop enjoined the incumbent to take care, that maſs ſhould be ſaid, and other divine offices performed in it yearly on the feſtival of St. Giles, the ſaint to whom the church was dedicated; and his lordſhip further ordered the church to be kept in more decent repair. It is, however, highly probable, that very little regard was ever ſhewn to his laſt injunction; and, according to Philipott, the ruins of this ſacred edifice did in his time repreſent themſelves to the ſmalleſt glance of a curious eye. In the Biſhop's regiſtry at Rocheſter is a ſurvey of this pariſh, which ſeems to have been taken towards the end of the laſt century, and the following extract from it may, perhaps, afford ſome amuſement to the antiquarian reader.—" The place where the church once ſtood is now a wood, and contains by computation between four and five acres. It lies nearly in a direct line between the churches of Shorne and Higham, about one mile diſtant from the former, and a mile and a half from the latter. Within this wood is a deep ditch, or intrenchment, which ſeems to have been anciently a fortification, or deſigned for the defence of the place. It encompaſſes a ſquare part of the wood, containing about three acres. The four ſides of this intrenchment lie nearly South, Weſt, North, and Eaſt. Within it are many riſings and inequalities, which probably were the foundations of buildings.—In the Eaſtern part of it, about fifteen paces from the ditch, ſeems to have been the ſite of the church, ſome marks of veſtiges of the walls are ſtill remaining. It appears to have been about fifteen paces long, and ſeven broad. At the Weſt-end of this, is a heap of ſtones, which, by the mortar mixed with them, ſeems to have been the walls of the church or ſteeple. About this ſuppoſed ſite of the church runs a ridge, or ſomewhat ri-

ſing ground, which perhaps was the wall of the church-yard.—About ten rods South of the Weſt end of the ſite of the chancel, is a very deep draw-well. There is now no way to this place but over ploughed or paſture lands. I am told, that the pariſh of Merſton contains about 150 acres of land, and that it buts or bounds on three ſides to the pariſh of Shorne, and on the other ſide to Higham. —I find that Merſton hath been aſſeſſed, and paid to the church and poor of Shorne, for near a hundred years paſt, which is as ancient as there are pariſh books remaining." —Thomas Danye, of Shorne, bequeathed by his will, dated July 17, 1493, ten acres of land, lying together in the pariſh of Merſton, to truſtees, for the diſtribution of herrings, white and red, for ever in Lent.

The hill, near which Merſton church ſtood, is the much noted Gad's-hill, ſuppoſed by many to be the ſpot on which Henry, Prince of Wales, ſon of King Henry IV. and his diſſolute aſſociates, robbed the Sandwich carriers, and the auditors who were carrying money to his father's exchequer. Philipott has hinted a ſurmiſe that this felonious frolic might have been played on Shooter's-hill, but tradition countenances the former opinion. And Shakeſpeare, beſides diſtinguiſhing one of the thieves by the name of Gad's-hill, having repeatedly fixed the ſcene of this tranſaction on this part of the road, makes it not unlikely, that he thought himſelf warranted in ſo doing, by a paſſage he had diſcovered in ſome Engliſh chronicle, play, or ballad*. Theobald had read an old play, called *The Famous Victories of Henry* V. in which the ſcene opens with Henry's robberies, and Gad's-hill is

* Quoth Falſtaff—An I have not ballads on you all, and ſung to filthy tunes, let a cup of ſack be my poiſon.

there

there named as one of the gang. Mr. Warton alſo mentions his having ſeen an old ballad, by Faire, called Gad's-hill; and he adds, that in the regiſters of the Stationers, among ſeven *ballettes*, licenſed to William Bedell and Richard Lante, one is entitled "The Robbery at Gad's-hill, under the year 1588*. The learned author concludes with obſerving, "I know not how far it might contribute to illuſtrate Shakeſpeare's Henry the Fourth: but the title is promiſing."

(*Hiſtory of Engliſh Poetry*, v. iii. p. 399.)

It is the remark of an ingenious writer of her travels, that great events or actions ſtamp a veneration on the ſpot where they were performed, and impreſs the ſpectator with lively ſentiments of pleaſure many ages after. This obſervation ſeems to be, to a high degree, pertinent, when applied to the dramatic works of a deſervedly admired poet, who has only related and embelliſhed incidents, perhaps of a doubtful authority, or if ſtrictly true, of but little importance. Not one of Shakeſpeare's plays is more read than his firſt part of King Henry IV. and of the many travellers who have been diverted with peruſing the dialogues between the Prince and Falſtaff, there are, perhaps, very few who will not experience a renewal of their mirth upon being informed, that they are riding near the ſuppoſed ſcene of their fictitious converſations; and, if ever they were fortunate enough to ſee the Falſtaff, deſcribed by the poet, repreſented by the late Mr. Quin, who was unrivalled in that character,

* Mr. W. ſubjoins the following note (*n*) Reg. A. fol. 32. b. See Clavell's Recantation, a poem, in quarto, Lond. 1634—Clavell was a robber, and here recites his own adventures on the highway. His firſt depredations are on Gad's hill. See fol. 1.

the recollection of what excited laughter in the theatre will not fail of raiſing a ſmile on Gad's-hill. To perſons of imaginations not over fanciful, the figure of the humourous knight muſt preſent itſelf. They will be apt to think they hear him facetiouſly complaining of the cruel treatment of the ſtony-hearted villains, his companions, in removing his horſe, and conſtraining a man of his bulk to rob on foot; to whom, eight yards of uneven ground was threeſcore and ten miles. And, when they recollect Hal's requeſt to Jack, to lay his ear to the ground to liſten whether he could diſtinguiſh the tread of travellers, they muſt, with pleaſure, recall to mind the Knight's droll, but appoſite queſtion: "Have you any levers to lift me up again?" They will, in idea, be ſpectators of the thieves robbing the true men, and of the retaliation made upon the thieves by two of their own gang in forcibly taking from them their rich booty; and they will again enjoy the conceit of Falſtaff, with his cups of limed ſack, telling incomprehenſible lies in order to cover his cowardice; his long rencounter with the two rogues in buckram ſuits growing up into eleven, all of whom he peppered and payed, till three miſbegotten knaves in Kendal green, ("for it was ſo dark, Hal, thou couldſt not ſee thy hand") came at his back and let drive at him—Thus, on the ſtage, in the cloſet, and upon the road, Falſtaff's adventure at Gad's-hill is likely to be, according to the prediction of the poet, not only an argument for a week, laughter for a month, but a good jeſt for ever. The late Sir Francis Head built on the top of the hill, towards Rocheſter, a neat cottage, which he denominated *Gad's-hill Caſa*, and on its being licenſed for a public houſe, he directed that the ſign ſhould have, on one ſide, a portrait of Henry V. and on the other, a repreſentation of the fat Knight and his aſſociates, as

deſcribed

deſcribed by the poet *Act* ii. *Scene* 4. After the death of Sir Francis, this ſign was removed, and in its place a plough was put up, with the motto *God ſpeed the Plow*. This change does not ſeem to have been propitious to mine hoſt of the Falſtaff; for the new ſign ſoon diſappeared, and one of the rooms being converted into a ſeed-ſhop, the motto would be far more pertinent than it was before. It muſt, however, be a ſatisfaction to the traveller to ſee that the ſubject which has for centuries rendered this ſpot ſo memorable, is revived on both ſides of the ſign before another public-houſe lately erected, which

> Striking the ſenſes of the paſſers by,
> May, by a virtual influence, breed affections
> That will reſult upon the party who owns it.

Nearly oppoſite the Sir John Falſtaff is a neat manſion, the country reſidence of Mr. Alderman Stevens, an eminent brewer in the city of Rocheſter. From this part of the road the traveller may catch a view of the ſummit of the Mauſoleum raiſed in Cobham Park, purſuant to the will of the late Earl of Darnley. —Cobham is a pariſh which gave a name and title to a family, that from the reign of King John, to that of James I. a term of above four hundred years, was of eminence in this county; and ſeveral of them were entruſted with offices of the greateſt conſequence. Sir Richard Temple, who was created by King George I. a Baron in 1714, and a Viſcount in 1718, took the title of Cobham; but it does not appear that he ever had any property in the pariſh, or that he was even collaterally deſcended from Henry Brook, Lord Cobham, who was Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports in the firſt year of James I. and who, by engaging in the ſtrange conſpiracy

racy of Sir Walter Raleigh and others, was attainted of high treaſon, by which ſentence his eſtate and honours were forfeited. Viſcount Cobham is now one of the titles of the Marquis of Buckingham.

John Lord Cobham, the laſt of the ſurname of that family, built Cowling Caſtle, as mentioned in a former page, and joined with Sir Robert Knolles in erecting a new ſtone bridge at Rocheſter. He likewiſe founded and endowed a College at Cobham, in the year 1632, for a maſter and chaplains to pray for the ſouls of him, his anceſtors, and ſucceſſors. In the reign of Henry VIII. this college ſhared the fate of all other inſtitutions of the like kind; but by an act paſſed in the 31ſt year of that reign, the ſite of the college, &c. was retained in Cobham family, and by William Lord Cobham was bequeathed to Sir John Lawſon, Thomas Fane, Eſq. and William Lambard, (author of the Perambulation) togegether with certain quantities of timber and bricks, and certain ſums of money, in truſt, that they ſhould "reedify and make there a new college for poor people to inhabit, continue, and be relieved in, and maintained there for ever." This new college was finiſhed in 1598, and by the truſtees above-mentioned ſubjected to ſuch rules and orders as they judged conducive to the better regulation of this well-deſigned charity. The perpetuity of the truſt was, by an act of the legiſlature in the reign of Elizabeth, veſted in the Wardens and Commonalty of Rocheſter Bridge, who are thereby ſtiled the Preſidents of the New College at Cobham, and by the attention that reſpectable body has ſhewn to this charity, the benevolent intention of the donor is to this day fully executed. Twenty poor perſons, with their families, have a comfortable habitation, with a quarter of an

acre

acre of land to each, and a monthly ſtipend of ſix ſhillings and eight pence. The preſentation of this charity is as follows—The proprietor of Cobham-hall ſends one, who is ſtiled warden of the college; the wardens of Rocheſter Bridge, as preſidents of the college, ſend one, who is ſub-warden; the remaining eighteen are ſent from the following neighbouring pariſhes—Cobham, three; Shorne, two; Cowling, one; Strood, two; Hoo, three; Cliffe, one; Chalk, one; Graveſend, one; Higham, one; St. Maries, one; Cuckſtone, one; and Halling, one.

A perſpective view of the preſent college is given in *Biblioth. Topograph. Britann.* No. vi. p. 1. The old college appears by the foundations and other remains, to have been quadrangular; and part of the Eaſt wall overgrown with ivy, and large chimney pieces of the kitchen and refectory are ſtanding at the South-eaſt angle. Between the North ſide of the new college and the South ſide of the church, there is alſo a part of the old North cloiſter; and the door way from the church, though now ſtopped up, is ſtill viſible by the fair mouldings.—In Cobham church are monuments to the memories of ſeveral of the noble perſonages who once inhabited this manſion, one ſo early as 1344; among which is that of John Lord Cobham, the founder of the college here, with his effigy on a braſs plate, holding a repreſentation of the college in his hands. Likewiſe a beautiful altar monument ſtanding in the middle of the chancel, on which are the effigies of two perſons at full length, and ſeveral children kneeling; this was erected to the memory of George Lord Cobham, who, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, was Governor of Calais, and died in 1588. The grant of a weekly market, to be holden

holden in this pariſh on a Monday, was obtained by John Lord Cobham in the 41ſt of Edward III. but has long been diſcontinued.

Cobham Hall (which, with the outhouſes, is ſaid to have coſt 60,000l. in building) was the ſeat and reſidence of theſe illuſtrious noblemen, as it now is of the Earl of Darnley. It is a noble fabric, conſiſting of a centre and two wings; the former is the work of Inigo Jones; the latter have lately been made uniform, new caſed with bricks, and ſaſhed. In a large room are ſtill to be ſeen the arms and portrait of Queen Elizabeth, who was entertained in it by the then proprietor of the manſion. "July 17, 1559," writes Strype, (*Annals*, v. i. p. 191.) "the Queen removed from Greenwich in her progreſs, and goes to Dartford, and the next day ſhe came to Cobham, the Lord Cobham's place, and there her Grace was welcomed with great cheer." And King Charles I. on his return from Canterbury to London, after marrying the Princeſs Henrietta of France, lodged at Cobham Hall, June 15, 1625.—The houſe is ſituated in the midſt of a large park, formerly more extenſive, which is beautifully interſperſed with woods and ſtately timber trees. Many of theſe are of great age and ſize; and ſome of the oaks, in particular, are twenty feet and upwards in circumference. A noted cheſnut tree, called THE FOUR SISTERS, from its dividing into four large arms, ſtands in a grove about a mile from the hall, near the path leading to Knights Place farm, and is thirty-two feet in circumference. The herbage of this park is ſo excellent, that the veniſon of the deer fed on it is judged to be of a higher flavour than almoſt any other in this county. Sir Joſeph Williamſon, the founder of the free mathematical ſchool in Rocheſter, and then one of

the

the repreſentatives of that city, reſided at Cobham Hall.

The Mauſoleum before mentioned, was directed by the will of the late Earl of Darnley, to be erected on Williams Hill, in his Lordſhip's park, on a ſpot of ground on which a chapel formerly ſtood. It is an elegant ſtructure of the Doric order, built with Portland ſtone, of an octangular form, with double fluted columns at each angle, ſupporting a ſarcophagus; the top terminating with a quadrangular pyramid. Over the vault is an elegant chapel for the uſe of the family, highly finiſhed; the columns which ſupport the dome are of the Compoſite order, and are caſed with the fineſt Brocatello marble, highly poliſhed; the windows are of painted glaſs, and have a beautiful effect; there is a neat marble altar-piece of the Ionic order, finely executed. At the back part of the chapel is a flight of ſteps into an area that leads to the vault, in which, at the upper end, and oppoſite to the entrance, is a black marble ſlab, incloſed with iron railing, intended for the repoſitory of the late Earl and his lady, the preſent Counteſs. Each ſide forms ſemicircular catacombs of Portland ſtone, containing ſixteen receſſes, or burial places in each. The late Earl is not yet removed from the chancel of Cobham church, where he was interred till the Mauſoleum ſhould be compleated.

Cobham Hall is much indebted to its late owner for many modern improvements, and internal embelliſhments. The great hall is grand and noble; the apartments are numerous, ſpacious, and neat, and ſeveral of them finiſhed in the moſt ſuperb manner. The library in particular is fitted up in an elegant and modern ſtyle, and contains a well choſen collection of the beſt authors, both ancient and modern.

Having

Having paſſed the 27th ſtone, a view on the left will preſent itſelf, of the Hermitage, the ſeat of the late Sir Francis Head, Bart. and now the reſidence of James Roper Head, Eſq. ſituated on an eminence which commands a pleaſing view of both the Thames and Medway; and the newly erected ſhewy manſion, cloſe to the road, is the reſidence of David Day, Eſq. At a very ſmall diſtance from this houſe, on the oppoſite ſide of the road, is a pond, commonly called Maſale Pond; but which, according to Mr. Haſted (p. 457.) was formerly ſtyled St. Thomas's Watering Place. Probably it was uſed as ſuch by the pilgrims who were travelling to Canterbury to make their offering at Becket's ſhrine; and, from a like ſuperſtitious veneration, they may have honoured with the ſame name ſeveral other ſpots. The firſt is not far from Kent-ſtreet-road, near a public-houſe on the South ſide of the road; where the drivers of the ſtage carriages now water their horſes, and which is ſtill very frequently called St. Thomas's Watering Place. Chaucer alludes to this ſpot, in the following lines of the prologue to his firſt Canterbury Tale.

And forth we ridden a little more than paas,
Unto the watering of St. Thomas:
And there our hoſt began his horſe a reſt, &c.

The houſe ſeems alſo to have acquired it's appellation from the Archbiſhop's name; for in 1522, when Cardinal Wolſey went to Calais to meet the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor and the French King, "honourablie accompanied he rode through London the 25th of Julie, and at *Thomas Becket's houſe*, the Maior and Aldermen took leave of him, praieng God to ſend him good ſpeed.

Thus

Continued through Canterbury *to* St. Nicholas *in the Isle of* Thanet.

Plate 2.

Ewring Grove
Cusington
Rickfield
Merchant Street
Newington Church
Bobbing Court
MILTON
Crown Key
Milton Creek
New Quay
Long
Bobbing
Paper Mill
Hamsted
Radfield
Brick
Chapel Hill
Key Street
Chesnut Street
Sittingbourn
Newington
Chesnut Street
Rainham
Hartlip Mill
Wormdell
Mickets
Sittingbourn Farm
Bapchild
Lingsted
Creek Hill
Dane
Hartlip
Danoway
Borden
Upton
Rodmersham
Buckland
the Abby
FEVERSHAM
Staple Street
J. Dawes Esq.
Bolsenden
Nash
Preston
Tho. Hawkins Esq.
Green Street
Limsted
Norton
Judds Folly
Jam. Flint Esq.
Provender
Boughton Street
Boughton Hill
Turnpike
Wellbrook
South Street
J. Lade Esq.
Ruskit
Beverly Park
Mr. Webb
Sir R. Wilmot
Harbledown
H. Pratt
St. Edw. Hales Bt.
Hoath
Chiflet
Tyle Kiln Hill
Western Road
Clavanger
T. Bridges Esq.
St. Nicholas Co.
White Hall
St. Stephens
Watmar Hall
Down Barton
T. Gillow Esq.
Sturry Court
Barton Mill
Mr. Tho. Benn
Sturry
Vauxhall
Half way House
Paddle Hill
Halfway House
Wall End
Old Ferry
Sarr
Tuttington
Westbere
Deanry
Upstreet
Fordwich
River Stour
CANTERBURY

J. Ellis sculp.

Thus paſſed he to Canterburie." (*Holinſhed's Chron.* iii. 874.) And probably from its being a place ſo frequently reſorted to, it was judged to be a proper ſpot for a public execution. Thus, according to Strype, in May 1593, John Penry, arraigned at the King's Bench, Weſtminſter, upon the ſtatute of 23 Elizabeth, c. ii. againſt ſeditious words, &c. was executed haſtily the ſame month, being brought out in an afternoon, out of the King's Bench priſon, in Southwark, into St. Thomas's Waterings, a place of execution on that ſide the river Thames. *Life of Archbiſhop Whitgift*, p. 409*.

In the Roman road, already deſcribed (p. 56.) between Shinglewell and Cobham Park, is a ſtanding water, ariſing from a ſpring which ſtill bears the name of St. Thomas's Well. It is likewiſe mentioned in the New Hiſtory of Kent, p. 324, that the ſpring of water which ſupplied the old palace of the Archbiſhops of Canterbury at Otford, bears the ſame denomination, from a tradition that Becket, finding the houſe wanted a proper ſpring for the uſe of the family, ſtruck his ſtaff into the dry ground, and water immediately appeared where the well now is.—This anecdote, if true, affords a ſpecimen of St. Thomas's cunning, for he could hardly have fixed upon a place where he could exerciſe his won-

* A. 1539, July 8th, Griffith Clearke, Vicar of Wandſworth, with his chaplain, and his ſervant, and Frier Waire, were all four hanged and quartered at *St. Thomas Waterings*. (*Holinſhed*, v. iii. p. 947.)—A. 1541, Jo. Mantell, Jo. Froud's, and George, executed at *St. Thomas Waterings*, being aſſociated with Lord Thomas Fines, Baron Dacres, in the murder of John Buſbrig, at Laughton Park, in Suſſex. Lord D. was executed at Tyburn, June 29. (*Weever's Funeral Monum.* p. 436.) One of the quarters of Sir Thomas Wyat was ſet up beſide *St. Thomas of Waterings*. (*Strype's Eccleſ. Mem.* iii. 120.)—A. 1566, June 18th, a ſon of Lord Sands was hanged at *St. Thomas of Watering*, for robbing a cart, in which were great riches, to the value of ſome thouſands, coming from a fair at Beverlay. *Ibid.* p. 301.

der-working talent with a greater certainty of ſucceſs.—From different parts of the hill deſcending to Strood, there is a pleaſing proſpect of the three towns, which, if not ſeparated by the river, would form a continued ſtreet of above two miles in length. The church of St. Margaret appears on an eminence to the right, and that of Frinſbury to the left. This hill, after paſſing on the right a lane leading to Cobham, near which was probably the courſe of the Roman road, is called Spittal hill, ſo denominated, becauſe at a little diſtance from it there ſtood the hoſpital of White-ditch*. The field on the right, in which it was ſituated, ſtill retains the name of White-ditch, but no veſtige of the building is diſcernible. It was a leprous hoſpital, conſiſting of brethren and ſiſters, and dedicated to St. Bartholomew. By whom and when founded are circumſtances unknown, as are likewiſe the time of its diſſolution, and the perſons who obtained a grant of the premiſes, and of other lands that might appertain to it.

At the entrance into Strood ſtands the pariſh church, which is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and conſiſts of a nave and two aiſles; it is 100 feet in length, and 50 in breadth. In the chancel is a handſome wainſcot altar-piece, of the Corinthian order. On the South ſide of the altar are ſome receſſes ſupported by pillars of Petworth marble.—In the South aiſle is a ſmall ſtone chapel, built in 1607, in the pavement of which are ſome fragments of Moſaic work. The principal entrance is at the South door, through a large Gothic arch of Caen ſtone. Having paſſed through the turnpike-gate, the opening on the left is the ſpot where once ſtood Newark

* The ſtreet at the Weſt-end of Dartford is called Spittal-ſtreet, and for the ſame reaſon.

hoſpital,

hoſpital, founded by Gilbert de Glanville, Biſhop of Rocheſter, but has been demoliſhed upwards of two hundred years, ſome few remains only excepted. One end of this inſtitution, agreeably to the ſuperſtitious practices of thoſe times, was, that maſſes might be ſaid for the ſouls of the founder, and many other pious benefactors. The reſidue of the profits of the eſtates ſettled upon it, after the prieſts and ſervants had received their ſhare, were applied in relieving the ſick, the impotent, and the neceſſitous, whether neighbours or travellers. And this ſeems to have been the original deſign of hoſpitals, that travellers, eſpecially pilgrims, might be refreſhed and entertained. For this purpoſe they were generally ſituated near a high road.—About half a mile South of Strood church, on the banks of the Medway, is an ancient building called the Temple, ſo named from having been formerly the manſion of the Knights Templars of the Teutonic order. The habitation of that famous order of robbers is now a farm-houſe. Little remains of the ancient fabric, except a ſpacious cellar, vaulted with chalk and ſtone groins; the walls are of a conſiderable thickneſs. Many of the inhabitants of Strood are ſupported by the fiſheries; of which the oyſter is the moſt conſiderable. This is conducted by a company of free dredgers, eſtabliſhed by preſcription, but ſubject to the authority and government of the Mayor and Citizens of Rocheſter. In 1729 an act of Parliament was obtained for the better management of this fiſhery, and for confirming the juriſdiction of the ſaid Mayor and Citizens, and free dredgers. The Mayor holds a Court of Admiralty every year, to make ſuch regulations as ſhall be neceſſary for the well conducting this valuable branch of fiſhery. Seven years ap-

prenticeſhip entitles a perſon to the freedom of this company. All perſons catching oyſters, not members of the fiſhery, are liable to a penalty. The company frequently buy brood or ſpat from other parts, which they lay in this river, where they ſoon grow to maturity. Great quantities of theſe oyſters are ſent to London; to Holland, Weſtphalia, and the adjacent countries.

The river Medway, which ſeparates Strood from Rocheſter, has its moſt diſtant ſource at Crowhurſt, in Surrey, from Crowden in the ſame county; and from Aſhdown and Waterdown Foreſts in Suſſex, are ſprings, the waters of which uniting with the former near Penſhurſt, flow in a conſiderable ſtream to Tunbridge, from whence it is navigable for barges; and, purſuing a courſe of fifteen miles, reaches Maidſtone; having firſt received conſiderable additions from innumerable ſmall ſprings, but chiefly by a ſmall ſtream at Hadlow (derived from ſeveral ſprings at Ightam, Shipbourn, Compherſtwood, and Oxenheath;) a ſtill more conſiderable one at Twyford-bridge, which has its riſe from Steward's-mead, Fant, and Theyſhurſt, in Suſſex; and at Yalding, by a ſtream formed by various ſprings at Great Chart, Pluckley, Egerton, Ulcomb, Eaſt Sutton, Cranbrook, &c. At Maidſtone it is augmented by a rivulet flowing thro' that town from Lenham, Harrietſham, and Leeds. In various, and frequently oppoſite directions, it meaſures a courſe of eighteen miles further before it reaches Rocheſter, deriving as it advances freſh ſupplies from various ſprings; and from Birlingbrook, which has its riſe at Wrotham and Trotterſcliffe.—Sir Richard Blackmore has celebrated its irregular progreſs in the following lines:

The

The fair Medwaga, that with wanton pride,
Forms ſilver mazes with her crooked tide.

A little below Rocheſter bridge, there is ſo conſiderable a deviation from a ſtraight tide, that the conceit of the Bard who was the eulogiſt of the Trent, will apply to Rocheſter as it did to Nottingham.

Britain's *fourth* ſtream which runs with rapid force,
No ſooner ſpies her, but retards his courſe,
He turns, he winds, he cares not to be gone,
Until to her he firſt has homage done.
Deering's Hiſtory of Nottingham, p. 17.

Colliers of the largeſt burthen are brought up to the wharf adjoining the bridge; and in the middle of the river, at the turn of the next reach, men of war are moored, when the harbour is full of ſhips in ordinary. From Rocheſter it proceeds about twenty-four miles, growing deeper and wider as it advances; and paſſing Chatham-yard, Upnor-caſtle, Gillingham-fort, and Sheerneſs-garriſon, it meets the Thames, and with that river is loſt in the ocean at the Nore. Over this river is a ſtone bridge, of which further notice will be taken when the traveller is arrived at Rocheſter, from which city the bridge acquires its appellation.

STAGE III.

Rocheſter Bridge—The Caſtle—St. Margaret's—Cathedral—Deſcription of the City—Chatham—Victualling Office—Hoſpitals of St. Bartholomew and Sir John Hawkins—Chatham Church—The Dock-Yard, Brompton—Gillingham—Rainham—Newington—SITTINGBOURNE.

ROCHESTER was, in the time of the Britons, named Dourbryf; by giving it a Latin termination, the Romans called it Durobrovis, and the Saxons denominated it Hroffceaſter. Ceaſter is evidently derived from caſtrum, a caſtle; and when thus uſed, it generally implies the Romans having had upon the ſpot a military ſtation; and Heroff is thought to be the name of a Saxon, who was a perſon of conſequence in this quarter. Leland ſpells it Roſeceſtre. Dour ſignifying water, and Briva, a paſſage, obviouſly points out this to have been a common paſſage over the Medway; and from its vicinity to the great Watling-ſtreet, there is ſufficient ground to conclude that the Romans purſued this courſe in their journey from the ſea coaſt to London. A ferry was probably their mode of conveyance; there is at leaſt no evidence of their having been a bridge at Rocheſter for many centuries after they retired from Britain. Dr. Thorpe, an eminent phyſician and antiquary, who reſided many years in this place, was ſtrongly inclined to believe that the firſt bridge between Rocheſter and Strood was erected in the reign of Edgar the Peaceable, but the reaſons on which he founded his opinion are not known. (*Mr. Thorpe's Antiquities*, p. 148.) It is, however, certain, that

that there was a bridge before the conqueſt; and that divers tracts of land were ſubjected to its ſupport by the proprietors of them. There are very ancient MSS. ſtill extant, one of them in the Saxon language, which mark with exactneſs the portions of the work to be executed by the landholders of the reſpective diſtricts; and theſe, which are called contributory lands, are not to this day diſcharged from the obligation in caſes of neceſſity. The bridge was of wood, and placed in the line of the principal ſtreets of Rocheſter and Strood. It was 430 feet in length, and that is now nearly the breadth of the ſtream at this place. It conſiſted of nine piers, but as the firſt and ninth piers were no other than abutments againſt the banks of the river, there were only eight ſpaces or arches. As far as can be collected from the deſcription in the MSS. the intermediate piers were ſet at unequal diſtances. From the depth of the water, its conſtant rapidity, the occaſional roughneſs of the tides, and the ſhocks of large bodies of ice, the bridge wanted ſuch frequent and heavy repairs, that the ſupporting of it became a grievous burden to the owners of the contributory lands. At the end of the fourteenth century, they were, in a petition to parliament, repreſented as almoſt ruined, and at the ſame time the bridge was dangerous for paſſengers, and well nigh deſtroyed. Under theſe circumſtances, with a ſpirit of compaſſion and generoſity, the great warrior, Sir Robert Knowles, and Sir John de Cobham, more known by the title of Lord Cobham, built at their joint expence the preſent bridge of ſtone. They ſuggeſted it to be fixed in a better and more ſafe place; by which was probably meant that it ſtood more ſecure, from its being ſituated nearer to the wall of the caſtle. An act of the legiſlature was requiſite to ſubject

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the contributory lands to the ſupport of the new bridge; and from its being about 135 feet longer than the old bridge, there was a proportional increaſe of a work among the proprietors.—As this muſt unavoidably in a courſe of years have added to their burthen, a patent was obtained from the Crown (22 *Rich.* II.) which was afterwards confirmed by Parliament (9 *Hen.* V.) for conſtituting the proprietors a body corporate, under the title of Wardens and Commonalty; and a licenſe granted, enabling them to receive and hold in mortmain lands and tenements to the value of 200l. a year. Sir John Cobham was the firſt and greateſt benefactor, and his gift was followed with ſuch conſiderable donations, that the eſtates uſually termed proper have been long adequate to the repairs of the bridge, without levying an aſſeſſment upon the contributory lands. The governing members of the corporation are two wardens and twelve aſſiſtants; and in purſuance of the directions in ſeveral acts of Parliament, the practice is, on the Friday in the week next following the week of Eaſter, to elect in the Bridge Chamber two wardens and twelve aſſiſtants for the year enſuing, to commence from the Monday in Whitſun-week. Four of the aſſiſtants are appointed auditors of the accounts of the wardens of the preceding year, and Thurſday in Whitſun week is the day fixed for their being ſettled.

The bridge is in length 560 feet, and 15 in breadth. It is formed with eleven arches, of which the greateſt is more than forty feet, and moſt of them above thirty feet, wide. At one of the ſpaces there was formerly a drawbridge, and three of the arches were rebuilt a few years ago. The greateſt water-way is 340 feet, and ten piers make 190 feet at low water. The ſterlings take up ſo much

much of the courſe that there is left but 230 feet for the tide of flood and ebb to act in; or rather ſuch was the computation of Nicholas Hawkſmoor, Eſq. in his hiſtorical account of London-bridge, p. 40, 41. publiſhed in 1736. Joneval (*Travels*, p. 85.) ſuppoſes the bridge to have been built upon a rock, but he was miſtaken. The piers muſt reſt upon piles, and the laying of the foundation of this fabric in ſo deep a river, and where there is a flux and reflux of ſo ſtrong a tide, was an arduous undertaking. Its execution does ſo great credit to the architect, that one muſt wiſh his name had been perpetuated. The French traveller obſerves, however, with truth, that in his time Rocheſter Bridge was one of the fineſt bridges in England, and eſteemed among its greateſt curioſities. Till Weſtminſter-bridge was erected, London-bridge could only be brought in competition with it; and Mr. Hawkſmoor remarked, that Rocheſter might be deemed a better bridge, becauſe the arches were wider than thoſe at London, and becauſe it was not incommoded with houſes. Before London Bridge was altered, the bridge at Rocheſter was unqueſtionably far more convenient for foot paſſengers, there being ſeveral large receſſes in which they might ſtand with ſafety; and theſe receſſes, as well as the other parts, have a ſtone parapet, coped, and crowned with an iron baluſtrade. Under the good management of the wardens for ſeveral years paſt, the eſtates proper have been duly attended to, and the increaſed revenue well applied. Should their ſucceſſors be as aſſiduous and upright in the diſcharge of their truſt, the time may come for their being a ſurplus to encourage them to look forward to the erecting a new bridge upon a better plan than the preſent, and upon the ſite of the original bridge; an object very deſirable both

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with reſpect to beauty and convenience. The turn and return of carriages, before and after paſſing the bridge, is ſtill inconvenient, tho' the entrances on both ſides have been much improved, and particularly the ſtreet at Rocheſter was widened by the removal of ſome houſes. It was called Chapel-ſtreet, from there having been in it a chantry chapel, founded by Sir John Cobham, with an endowment of eighteen pounds a year, payable out of the bridge lands, for the ſupport of three prieſts. The chapel is now a dwelling houſe, and the entrance of it is through a portico nearly oppoſite the Eaſt-end of the bridge. In the apartment above the portico the muniments of the bridge are kept, and over the gate-way of of the Crown Inn is the audit chamber, in which the wardens and aſſiſtants hold their meetings. A conſiderable part of the ſtone moulding of the Gothic door of the chapel is in good preſervation, and on each ſide of the door are mouldings of the Weſt windows, that had alſo pointed arches. Traces of the old windows in the Eaſt and South walls are diſcernible in the yard of the ſame Inn, and the houſe on the North ſide is in many leaſes called the chapel houſe, becauſe it was the place of reſidence of the chaplains. By the rules eſtabliſhed by the founders, there were to be three maſſes ſaid every day; the firſt between five and ſix o'clock in the morning, the ſecond between eight and nine, the third between eleven and twelve, to the end that travellers might have the opportunity of being preſent at theſe divine offices, this being the principal cauſe for which the chantry was endowed. But at each maſs there was to be a ſpecial collect for all the living and dead benefactors to the bridge and chapel, and for the ſouls of Sir John Cobham and others, whoſe names were to be recited. There was another chapel at the Weſt-end of the bridge, but where

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placed is not known; chapels for the like purpoſes were not uncommonly fixed near bridges that were much frequented; and a cuſtom is ſaid to have obtained in Ireland, at the beginning of this century, for the natives at paſſing over a bridge, to pull of their hats, or ſhew ſome other token of reſpect, and pray for the ſoul of the builder of the bridge. (*Kennet's Paroch. Antiq. Gloſſary Pontagium.*) The concluding part of this ceremony being an uſage unwarranted, and of dangerous tendency, ought to be diſcountenanced. But a grateful remembrance of perſons who extended the effects of their liberality beyond the age in which they lived is praiſe worthy.

The caſtle, venerable in its ruins, is another object that muſt attract the notice of every traveller. There are different ways to it, one from the yard of the Crown Inn, another up a paſſage adjoining to the Phœnix Printing-Office; and if this is not what was formerly called Caſtle-lane, probably the lane to the Eaſt of the King's-head was ſo denominated, from its leading to the caſtle through a market place, ſituated to the South of the High-ſtreet. The entrance into the caſtle-area was by a bridge formed on two arches over a deep dry foſs. On each ſide of the portal, part of which is remaining, is an angular receſs with arches on the outſide, that commanded the avenues; and over the gate-way and the receſſes was a large tower. The keep, or maſter tower, of which there are ſuch conſiderable remains, ſtands at the South-eaſt angle of the area. In the opinion of ſome writers, this tower, a tower in Dover Caſtle, and the White Tower within the Tower of London, were erected by Julius Cæſar; a moſt extravagant conceit! for of this illuſtrious hero hiſtory will warrant an aſſertion, that on his firſt viſit to Britain, he came, ſaw, and retired, without being entitled to a

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ſprig of laurel. And though on his arrival the year following, he marched further into the country, yet he again made a precipitate retreat, after ſo ſhort a ſtay, as would not allow of his raiſing any but temporary fortifications for the ſecurity of his fleet and army.

After the Romans became conquerers of our iſland, it is clear they had a ſtipendiary ſtation at Rocheſter; and the height of the ground upon which the caſtle ſtands, its ſituation with reſpect to the Medway, and to the ancient road leading to the paſſage over the river, denote this hill to have been the ſpot where it is moſt likely they had a fortreſs. This idea is corroborated by the great variety of Roman coins dug up within this diſtrict. It is, however, in vain to ſearch for veſtiges of their buildings; and as fruitleſs would be an attempt to aſcertain what kind of military works there might be in the time of the Saxons; there being ſo few paſſages in their hiſtory in which a caſtle is expreſly mentioned. But in the year 884, when the Danes beſieged Rocheſter, there muſt have been a citadel of importance; becauſe the inhabitants were enabled to reſiſt their vigorous attacks, till they were relieved by Alfred; and the enemy had been long enough in the place to raiſe an offenſive fortreſs, which they had not time to deſtroy before their retreat. The firſt William is judged to have erected a new caſtle; others have apprehended that he might only enlarge what had belonged to the Saxons. It could not have been a very ſtrong hold, becauſe when in the poſſeſſion of Odo, Biſhop of Baieux, and his aſſociates, who had revolted in the beginning of the reign of William Rufus, it was ſpeedily reduced, and moſt probably the King's not finding it ſo defenſive a poſt as his father imagined it to be, he reſolved to build a caſtle

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of ſtone. Gundulph, Biſhop of Rocheſter, who had been employed by the firſt William to ſuperintend the building of the White Tower in London, agreed, after ſome demur, to be the architect. The condition was, that he ſhould build it at his own expence, on a promiſe from the King of a grant to the church of Rocheſter in perpetuity of the manor of Hadenham, in Bucks. He accordingly built the caſtle upon what an authentic manuſcript of the age terms the moſt beautiful part of the city; but as it did not coſt him more than ſixty pounds, it is with reaſon ſuppoſed that he might only engage to defray the charge of the maſonry workmanſhip.

That the great tower now ſubſiſting was erected by Gundulph, there is therefore little room to doubt, and hitherto it has been always called after his name. It is manifeſtly upon the ſame plan with caſtles, allowed to have been built by the early Normans, and within the tower there are traits of the ſtyle of architecture to which the prelate uniformly adhered. To an objection offered from Archbiſhop Corboyl's having built a tower of Rocheſter Caſtle, it may be anſwered, that the Hiſtorian *(Florence of Worceſter)* in the paſſage alluded to, ſays, another tower. And the tower erected by the Archbiſhop might be one of the towers in the walls, or a tower, ſince dilapidated within the area, or the ſmall tower, unqueſtionably a ſubſequent work, that adjoins to the maſter houſe.

Through the little tower was the paſſage into the great tower, after aſcending a flight of ſteps that were carried partly round two of the fronts of the caſtle, and defended on the firſt landing place by a ſtrong arch, under which hung a maſſy gate, and higher up by a drawbridge. The entrance into the veſtibule of the ſmall

tower had alſo a ſtrong gate and portcullis; and at the portal of the great tower there was another gate and portcullis. The great tower is about ſeventy feet ſquare at the baſe, and the walls in general are twelve feet thick. The ſmall may be two-thirds of the height of the large tower, and is about twenty-eight feet ſquare. A wall from the bottom to the top ſeparates the apartments of the keep: ſo that the rooms on each floor were forty-ſix feet by twenty-one. In the partition wall there are arches by which a communication was opened from one room to the other, thoſe on the upper ſtory except d. In the centre of the wall there is a well, by which every floor was ſupplied with water; its diameter is two feet and nine inches. On the North-eaſt ſide of the tower is a deſcent by ſteps into a vault under the ſmall tower, which might have been uſed for a priſon. In the Eaſt angle there is a winding ſtair-caſe, which aſcends from the bottom to the top of the tower; although the ſteps are much deſtroyed the aſſent is not difficult. In the Weſt angle is another ſtair-caſe, winding from the floor of the firſt ſtory to the top of the tower, having alſo communications with every room; on the ground floor were no windows, and very few loop-holes, and thoſe exceſſively ſmall. Their ſtructure and ſituation were ſuch, that a firebrand caſt in could do little miſchief, becauſe when it dropped it muſt fall directly under the arch, thro' which each loop-hole was approached from within; nor could an arrow ſtrike any one except a perſon who might be at the loop-hole; on the third floor were the apartments of ſtate. Theſe rooms were about thirty feet high, and ſeparated by cylindrical columns, which ſupport four round arches; theſe arches and the round headed doors have a zig-zag moulding. As you aſcend to the next floor,

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about midway, there is a narrow arched paſſage or gallery in the main wall, quite round the tower. From the upper or fourth floor, the ſtair-caſe is carried ten feet higher to the ſummit, which is about 93 feet from the ground, round which is a battlement ſeven feet high, with embraſures.

A detail of every article worthy of notice in the tower would take up too many pages of this little itinerary. And it muſt be an amuſement to the inquiſitive eye of the traveller to diſcover ſeveral of them himſelf; nor is it unlikely but he may elucidate ſundry particulars, which notwithſtanding all that has been written upon this caſtle, are ſtill involved in obſcurity. After the introduction of artillery it ceaſed to be a defenſive fortreſs, and no perſon of any conſequence could have a wiſh to reſide in apartments ſo dark and dreary. It was, however, inhabited in the reign of Elizabeth, for in the ſtatutes then enacted for the better management of Rocheſter bridge, it was directed that the wardens and aſſiſtants ſhould hold meetings in the caſtle.

King James I. in 1610, granted this caſtle with all the ſervices and emoluments appertaining thereto, to Sir Anthony Weldon of Swanſcombe; and Walker Weldon, a de cendant, ſold the timber work belonging to the caſtle to Gimmet, who not many years ago applied a part of it in building a brew-houſe on the common. Some maſons of London bought the ſtone ſtairs, and other ſquared and wrought ſtones of the windows and arches; and the reſt of the materials were offered to a paviour, but he declined purchaſing them, finding upon trial, the cement ſo hard, that the expence of ſeparating and cleaning the ſtones would amount to more than their value. This eſſay was made on the Eaſtern ſide near the poſtern leading to

Bully-hill, where a large chaſm ſhews the effects of it. The area of the caſtle diſtrict may be about 300 feet ſquare, but whatever buildings may have been within it, they were long ſince deſtroyed. It is hardly to be ſuppoſed that ſo large an area ſhould be undivided, and a very accurate inveſtigator of antiquities, who reſides in the neighbourhood, is perſuaded, after repeated reſearches, that there was a wall extending from the tower in the Eaſt wall, that is now the only building inhabited, to the Weſt wall. The ground to the north of this partition wall would anſwer to what in other caſtles is often called the inner ballium.—Several towers were built in the angles and ſides of the caſtle walls. There ſeems, in particular, to have been a large tower at the North angle, that was a great ſecurity to the bridge; near this tower is a long opening in the wall from the bottom to the top, and it is ſuppoſed to have been uſed for the ſecret conveyance of neceſſaries from the river into the caſtle. In the South angle of the walls there was another tower, and from the number of loop-holes, it muſt have been deſigned to annoy an enemy who had ſucceeded in an attack of the South gate of the city. At a ſmall diſtance from this tower are ſteps of deſcent to Bully or Boley-hill; and while the caſtle was in force there might be here a poſtern gate to this part of the out-works.—From the many urns and lachrymatories found on Boley-hill, there is no doubt but it was the burying-place of the Romans, when ſtationed at Rocheſter. It is conjectured by hiſtorians, and with great probability that the mound on the South ſide might be caſt up by the Danes, when they beſieged the city in 884, and that near it they erected the fort mentioned in a former page.

King Edward IV. in 1460, granted to the Mayor and citizens

citizens a right to a view of frankpledge in the city, and in a certain place, called the Boley, within the ſuburbs of the city. It is a court leet ſtill kept ſeparate from that holden in the Guild-hall. The inhabitants of this ſmall diſtrict are to appear before the Recorder of the city as ſteward of the court, which is held on the Monday after St. Michael, and an officer is then appointed, called the Baron of the Bully. The form of admiſſion is by the delivery of a ſtaff, no oath of office being required. It is thought that the Baron might be the firſt officer under the governor of the caſtle, before the inſtitution of the court leet. The court is kept under the elm tree at the Eaſt end of the hill, and the houſeholders of the ſeveral tenements within its limits are generally appointed in ſucceſſion to this office. The very elegant and commodious houſe oppoſite the caſtle, is the ſeat of John Longley Eſq. Recorder of this corporation. It was the habiation of Mr. Watts, of whoſe benefactions to the city, notice will be taken in another page. He had here the honour of entertaining Queen Elizabeth in 1573, who, as tradition reports, gave to this manſion the title of Satis, as a compliment to the generoſity of her hoſt; it ſtill bears that name. The large houſe on the eminence, which is the reſidence of Mrs. Gordon, is held by leaſe from the governors of St. Bartholomew's Hoſpital in London.

Whence the hill itſelf derived its ſingular appellation, has not a little puzzled our antiquaries. Its origin has been adduced from a Greek word (Βολὴ) ſignifying caſt up from Bulla, a ſeal ſuppoſed to have been affixed to the deed by which it was conveyed to, or alienated from, the Crown—from beau-lieu, a beautiful ſpot, (and a pleaſing one it certainly is)—and from a nobleman of Roman extraction, whoſe name was Bully. But an attention to

its ſituation with reſpect to the caſtle, and the uſe to which it was applied whilſt that fortreſs was in its proſperity, may lead to a more fortunate ſurmiſe concerning the etymology of the word. To moſt old caſtles were appertaining outworks called Ballia. Thus at Bedford there was an inner and an outward ballium,—at Colcheſter they were termed the upper and the nether ballium; and the mote or foſs was ſometimes ſtyled Ditch del Bayle, or of the ballium. (*See Preface to Groſe's Antiquities*, p 6, 7.) As the entrance into the inner ballium was commmonly through a ſtrong embattled gate, ſecured by a portcullis, it has been intimated that the inner ballium of this caſtle might be placed on the North ſide of the wall that divided the caſtle area; and that there was an outer ballium is clear, from *Matthew of Weſtminſter's Hiſtory*, p. 334, who relating the unſucceſsful attack of the Earl of Leiceſter and the confederate Barons againſt the caſtle, obſerves, that having by a fireſhip deſtroyed the bridge, and a tower of wood upon it, he became poſſeſſed of the city *cum exteriori ballio caſtri*. But there is clearly no ſpot without the caſtle, except Bully-hill, which can be meant in this paſſage.

In many places where there were caſtles this outwork retains the name of Bailey, though at Rocheſter there is a variation. Bully is the vulgar appellation, but in the charter of Edward IV. it is ſpelt Boley; as it is alſo in a conſiſtorial act of the Biſhop of Rocheſter, in 1468; nor is the error to be attributed ſolely to the writer of theſe manuſcripts, Boley being, as it is apprehended, a vocal corruption, for which it is eaſy to account. For at that time, and long after, it was frequently pronounced like O: for example, *honde* for *hande*, *londe* for *lande*, *doughter* for *daughter*, and St. *Powle* for St. *Paul*.

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Not many years ago, perſons, who in general expreſſed themſelves correctly, were apt to ſpeak of *Pow e*'s clock and *Powle*'s church-yard; and perhaps there may now be watermen, who, on hearing that their paſſengers are bound to Doctors Commons, would adviſe them to land at *Powle*'s wharf. It is alſo obſervable, that in the charter of Edward IV. where *Boley Hill* is mentioned, *Powle*'s croſs is named as one of the marks of the limits of the juriſdiction of the corporation of Rocheſter. It will therefore, it is preſumed, be allowed to be a well founded conjecture, that the hill under review had a right to the denomination of Baley, or Bailey Hill, though long preſcription to the contrary will probably be a perpetual bar againſt the common uſe of it. Boley has alſo in ſpeech given way to Bully, perhaps from inadvertence, perhaps by deſign, as conveying a ſomewhat humourous idea when aſſociated with the title of the ſinecure Peace Officer, who preſides over this diſtrict. —The South gate of the city was at the Eaſt corner of the Bailey; the arch was taken down in the year 1770, but the hooks on which the gate was hung are to be ſeen in the wall of Mrs. Gordon's garden. The lofty wall on the other ſide encloſes the precinct of the Biſhop's palace. Through this gate was the high road to Maidſtone, up a ſtreet called St. Margaret's; in which, on the left hand, is an ancient ſtone wall which bounded the grange yard of the priory to the Weſt; part of it is the wall of the Archdeacon's garden, at the end of which is a lane leading into the new Maidſtone road. The South wall of this garden terminates at a dilapidated wall that encloſed the vineyard of the monaſtery, and the field retains the name of *The Vines*. Oppoſite this lane, on the right ſide of St. Margaret's-ſtreet, is a

houſe,

houſe, that towards the end of the laſt century was given by Francis Head, Eſq to the Biſhops of this ſee, for the better accommodation of their Lordſhips when they ſhould viſit this part of their dioceſe. The next building is the poorhouſe for this pariſh; it was erected in 1724; towards the building of which Sir Thomas Colby, and Sir John Jennings, the then repreſentatives of this city, gave two hundred pounds.—St. Margaret's church is ſituated at the end of the ſtreet; it conſiſts only of a nave about 100 feet in length. In the South ſide are two chancels, of a more modern conſtruction than the church. —Should the traveller have time to lengthen his walk, he may have a very pleaſing one in the fields beyond the green adjoining to the church yard, called Boſtol-fields, after a manor houſe belonging to the ſee of Rocheſter, ſituated in the vale at the extremity of theſe fields; nor indeed can he walk in any quarter of the environs of this city, without being ſtruck with the beauty and variety of the proſpects. An ingenious artiſt, whilſt delineating one of theſe pictureſque ſcenes from a gentleman's garden on Caſtle-hill, declared, that altho' he had travelled much in England and abroad, he never ſaw a landſcape ſo compleat without any aſſiſtance from art.

Returning down St. Margaret's-ſtreet, and turning on the right through a breach in the wall, we enter the precincts of the priory through the gateway, anciently ſtyled the Prior's-gate. The building adjoining the gate, is the Royal Grammar School, founded by Henry VIII. for the education of twenty boys, called King's ſcholars. It is endowed with four exhibitions, to be paid by the church to four ſcholars; two of them to be of Oxford, and two of Cambridge; which exhibitions, of five pounds per year each, they enjoy, till they have

taken

taken the degree of A. M. if they continue members of the Univerſities, and have no fellowſhip. An upper and under maſter are appointed for the inſtruction of youth in this ſchool. Six houſes in the row oppoſite are inhabited by the minor canons of this cathedral; the ſeventh at the Eaſt end belongs to the organiſt. At a ſmall diſtance to the left is the ſite of the ancient palace belonging to the Biſhop of this ſee. Biſhop Fiſher appears to be the laſt who reſided here. The preſent buildings were erected about the middle of the laſt century, and are by the Biſhop leaſed out to tenants, as is his houſe in St. Margaret's. In the Weſt quarter of the palace precincts were the Biſhop's court, for the trial of civil cauſes, and a priſon. No debtors have been confined in it for upwards of forty years, the practice of the court not being ſufficient to defray the expences of ſupporting the juriſdiction. In what uſed to be the gaoler's garden, the late Biſhop Pearce, in the year 1760, erected a regiſter's office. Not many yards from Minor Canon Row, on the right, is a ſmall embattled tower, through which was the entrance into the cloiſter of the priory The arch of the gateway is viſible, but the ground being much raiſed, it is not eaſy to fix what might be the height of it. Contiguous to the cloiſter were the dormitory and refectory, and perhaps other offices; but they were taken down ſoon after the diſſolution of this religious houſe. A part of the Eaſt wall of the cloiſter is ſtanding; there are in it round pilaſtres and arches, ſome of which are interſected. There are alſo door-ways, with ſemicircular arches, that were neatly carved. As this was called the dormitory cloiſter, one of the doors doubtleſs led to that apartment; and as Ernulph, who was Biſhop of Rocheſter from 1115

to

to 1124, built the dormitory, it is likely that this cloiſter might be of his conſtruction. It is certain that he erected the chapter-houſe, which is at the North end of this cloiſter; of the front of this room there are conſiderable remains, particularly three windows, and three arches under them. Theſe arches were embelliſhed, in a very elegant ſtyle of ſculpture, but there was the greateſt profuſion of ornaments on the compartments which formed the faſcia of the centre arch, or door-way. —The almonry of the convent was at the South-weſt extremity of the church. It is now the houſe of the fifth Prebendary, and this ſtall is annexed, by act of Parliament, to the Provoſtſhip of Oriel College, in Oxford. There was, within memory, a gate adjoining to the gable end of this houſe, which encloſed this part of the precinct, now called College Green.

The Weſt end of the cathedral now preſents itſelf to the traveller's eye. Auguſtine, Archbiſhop of Canterbury, eſtabliſhed an epiſcopal ſee at Rocheſter about the year 604, and King Ethelbert built a church for Juſtus, the firſt biſhop. If any part of that church was ſubſiſting at the conqueſt, it was ſoon after taken down; for a church, entirely new, was erected by Gundulph, promoted to this dioceſe in 1077, and who continued in it till his death, which happened in 1107. He is ſaid to have finiſhed his plan before his deceaſe; and there are ſeveral parts of the preſent fabric that were doubtleſs of his conſtruction. The beautiful Weſt door has been attributed to him; and the ſtyle of its ſculpture ſhews it could not be well the work of a much later period. It has a ſemicircular arch, agreeable to the early Norman architecture, with ſeveral members, unfortunately much mutilated, containing a great variety of ornaments. Beneath

neath the crown is the figure of our Saviour ſitting on a throne, with a book open in his left hand that reſts upon the knee, the right hand being raiſed in the attitude of bleſſing; but the hand is broken off, as is likewiſe the head, though the nimbus or glory is diſcernible. The throne is ſupported on the right by St. Mark, and on the left by St. John the Evangeliſt; they have their uſual ſymbols, the lion and the eagle, and above their heads are doves. On the north ſide of the door is the ſtatue of King Henry I. and on the South ſide that of Matilda, his Queen. Henry was preſent at a dedication of this cathedral by Archbiſhop Corboyl, on May 11, 1130, and afterwards a benefactor to the neighbouring priory. Biſhop Gundulph had been confeſſor to the Queen. In a niche of the Weſt front of the North-weſt tower of the nave, is a very ancient epiſcopal figure ſtanding upon a ſhrine, deſigned, as it is thought, for Gundulph. The old tower was taken down in 1763; the ſtatue was an ornament of that tower, but placed in the North ſide of it facing the gate of entrance from the city into the precincts. The ground at the Weſt end is ſo much raiſed, that there is a deſcent by ſeveral ſteps into the body of the cathedral, which conſiſts of a nave and two ſide aiſles. The dimenſions of this church are as follow: From the Weſt door to the ſteps leading up to the choirs 150 feet, and from thence to the Eaſt wall of the chancel 156 feet; total 306 feet. The tranſept between the nave and the choir is in length, from North to South, 122 feet The Eaſt tranſept is in length, from North to South 90 feet.

An almoſt univerſal opinion prevails, that much the greater part of the preſent nave was erected by Gundulph; the two pointed arches on each ſide neareſt the tranſept being

being judged to aſcertain the extent of his work. Above the other columns are heſe marks of the early Norman architecture: the pillars are round and plain, and the two tier of ſemicircular arches, between which there is a triforium, have a waving or zigzag moulding. The faces of the upper arches are overſpread with a different kind of fret work. On each ſide of the Weſt door there are two tier of receſſes, which appear from the ſtyle of ſculpture to be of the ſame age In all theſe ornaments there is manifeſtly a want of elegance, and many of them are irregularly execu ed. The moulding over the door of the tower at the Weſt end of the South aiſle is very ordinary. As the decorations within the church are in a different ſtyle, and certainly have not that beauty and neatneſs which are ſo conſpicuous in the ornaments of the Weſt door, ſome have doubted whether the latter might be execu ed under the direction of Gundulph, and are rather inclined to imagine it might be the work of Ernulph, who, it is clear from the embelliſhments upon the arches of the old chapter-houſe, had a more elegant taſte in architecture than his predeceſſor. Since the building of the nave, the roof ſeems to have been carried higher, and iron bands let in to ſtrengthen the wall. The great Weſt window muſt have alſo been enlarged; on each ſide of which, within the church, may be ſeen the remains of arches, deſtroyed when the alteration was made. A very neat half pillar is worked up with the ſixth column on the South ſide; it has a capital, with a very elegant carved foliage, that differs, it is believed, from the capital of every other pillar in the church. On each ſide of the ſteps leading up to the choir of Canterbury cathedral, as built by Archbiſhop Lanfrane, there was a croſs aiſle; and it is moſt probable there was the like

adjunct

adjunct to Gundulph's nave at Rocheſter, tho' afterwards rebuilt upon a larger ſcale. For it can be ſhewn that the preſent tranſept was erected ſubſequent to a fire in April 1179, which ſeems to have damaged the nave and the South aiſle of the Weſt tranſept. It being recorded that Ralph de Roſs, prior in 1199, roofed the great church, the greater part with lead, and that Helyas, who occurs prior in 1222, finiſhed the covering with lead. It is alſo entered in authentic MSS. that the North aiſle, called the *new work*, was begun by Richard d'Eaſtage, monk and ſacriſt, and almoſt finiſhed by brother Thomas de Mepeham; that Richard de Valedene, monk and ſacriſt, built the South aiſle towards the court; and that Helyas, whilſt ſacriſt, (and he certainly held that office in 1206) never contributed leſs than twenty two pounds ſterling a year to the *new work*. The roof of the nave was probably raiſed upon its being new covered by Ralph de Roſs and Helyas. And the better to connect the nave with the new tranſept, might it not be judged neceſſary to take down the original Eaſtern arches, and in part, the pillars which ſupported them? ſhould this ſurmiſe be admitted, it will in ſome degree account for thoſe arches being angular, ſemicircular arches being at that time deduced. The arches in the tranſept are pointed. The baſe of almoſt every pillar ſeems to have been ornamented with a human head; and many of theſe heads are well carved, and remain perfect. As a number of them have ſhorn crowns, it may be reaſonably preſumed that they exhibit the viſages of the monks, who were members of the priory whilſt the work was carrying on.—The chapel to the Weſt of the South tranſept is frequently denominated the chapel of St. Mary of the infirmary, there having been in it an altar to her honour, the oblations at

which were applied to the uſes of the infirmary. This altar was dedicated in February 1240. The cluſtered pillars, which are of free ſtone, and other architectural ornaments, are not in the ſtyle of an earlier period, and the chapel appears to have had a vaulted roof. Three Biſhops of Rocheſter, perhaps more, were buried in this chapel, but no monument, or graveſtone, is left to point out their places of interment.

In the original plan of Gundulph's church, it is not unlikely there might be a tower over the ſteps leading up to the choir. When the alteration was made in the columns and arches at the Eaſt end of the nave, and the croſs aiſles were erected, this tower muſt have been rebuilt; but Biſhop Haymo de Hethe, in 1343, raiſed the tower higher with ſtones and timber, which he covered with lead, and placed in it four bells, named Dunſtan, Paulinus, Ithamar, and Lanfranc. In 1749, Mr. Sloane, an architect of Graveſend, built the preſent ſteeple. There are in the tower ſix bells, and the height of it is 136 feet.

The practice of building upon ſtone arches being ſo common as to have occaſioned an erroneous opinion of its having been introduced by them into England, it may be concluded that there is an aſcent from the nave into Gundulph's choir; and if ſo, the undercroft now ſubſiſting, may be aſſigned to him. The vaulting being of ſtone, it could not have ſuſtained any material damage by fire or other caſualties; nor are there any traces of the ſtyle of architecture of a later period. And for the former reaſon it may be inferred, that in ſubſequent repairs of the choirs, part of the original wall, might be preſerved. William de Hoo, ſacriſt, is ſaid to have made (fecit) the whole choir from the croſs aiſles; the work therefore done to the choir, whatever it might be, muſt

have

have been executed after the tranſept was rebuilt, and it is indeed expreſsly mentioned that this new choir was firſt uſed in 1227; but had there been a neceſſity to have rebuilt from the pavement, ſhould we not moſt probably have ſeen the choir ſeparated from its ſides by Gothic work, inſtead of walls near ſix feet thick. Walls of this ſolidity are allowed to be a mark of the early Norman architecture; and to a builder of caſtles, as Gundulph was, they were habitual. This will countenance a ſurmiſe that the preſent walls of the choir, to a conſiderable height might be of his conſtruction; and that William de Hoo, in new making the choir, would uſe them as far as he could with ſecurity to ſave time, trouble, and expence. And if to him he attributed the repairing of them, together with the conſtructing of the vaulted ſtone roof, fitting up and furniſhing the whole choir, might it not in the vague language of the Monkiſh writers of that time, be denominated a new choir, and William be ſaid to have made it!—Inſtances of the like inaccuracy of ſpeech may be cited even in the eighteenth century. After the late repair at Weſtminſter Abbey, the epithet new was prefixed to that choir. And in an advertiſement printed ſome time ſince in every newſ aper, ſubſcriptions were ſolicited for rebuilding Hereford cathedral, though only the dilapidated Weſt end of the nave is to be reinſtated. The choir at Rocheſter was made with the offerings at the tomb of William, a charitable Scotch baker, who was by the device of ſome crafty monk converted into a martyr and ſaint; becauſe, whilſt travelling towards the Holy Land, he was unfortunately murdered and robbed near Rocheſter by his ſervant: but the work was manifeſtly compleated upon an œconomical plan, the architect having been very ſparing in his

ornaments.—Very conſiderable alterations and improvements were made in the choir in the years 1742, and 1743, under the direction of Mr. Sloane; new ſtalls and pews were erected; the partition walls wainſcoted, and the pavement laid with Bremen and Portland ſtone beautifully diſpoſed. The choir was alſo new furniſhed, and the epiſcopal throne erected at the expence of Dr. Joſeph Wilcocks, at that time Biſhop of the Dioceſe. The pillars, which are of the Petworth marble, were then injudiciouſly white-waſhed, but they have ſince been poliſhed and reſtored to their original beauty: the altar piece, which is made of Norway oak, is plain and neat. Dr. Herring, Archbiſhop of Canterbury, who was many years Dean of this cathedral, gave fifty pounds towards ornamenting this part of the church. There was then only a pannel of wainſcot in the middle, in the place of which was fixed a large piece of rich velvet in a frame elegantly carved and gilt. This was removed a few years ago, and it is now decorated with a picture of the angels appearing to the ſhepherds, by Mr. Weſt, from an unknown benefactor. An engraving from this picture is prefixed to the firſt volume of Mr. Duche's ſermons. Adjoining to the South wall of the chancel, there are three elegant ſtone ſeats. They have been called the confeſſionary, but improperly, they not being, either from their form or ſituation, adapted to that uſe. The confeſſionaries are always conſtructed of wood, and are generally placed in the nave, as being the moſt conſpicuous part of the church. Stalls like theſe are ſtill ſubſiſting in the chancels of many parochial as well as cathedral and collegiate churches; and they were doubtleſs for the convenience of eccleſiaſtics of high rank, and would be uſed by the officiating clergy in the intervals during the

celebration

celebration of maſs. In the front of the ſtalls under review are three ſhields of arms: on the firſt, or Eaſtern ſtall, are the arms of the See of Rocheſter: the centre ſhield bears the arms of the Priory of Chriſt church, Canterbury; and it is ſuppoſed that the third ſhield is emblazoned with the arms of the Prior, and convent of St. Andrew, who was the tutelar ſaint of Rocheſter cathedral. Formerly there were epiſcopal portraits in each of the niches; one of them was a picture of Biſhop John de Shepey, who died in 1360. He was buried at the foot of theſe ſtalls, and his remains were covered with a flat ſtone that was removed when the choir was new paved. Perhaps theſe ſtalls may have anſwered the purpoſe of a cenotaph for this Biſhop. From the ſtyle of their architecture they do not ſeem to have been of an earlier period.

In November 1791, a new organ built by Mr. Green, was erected in this cathedral, and opened by Mr. Banks the preſent organiſt. This organ for fineneſs of tone has few equals; the various ſtops in the ſwell, eſpecially the trumpet are uncommonly brilliant.—The diapaſons and dulciana on the choir organ are not leſs worthy of notice. There are three diapaſons in the full organ of a round ſweet tone, which when joined with the trumpet, cornet, &c. give a ſmoothneſs even to the deepeſt ſounds, and are awfully pleaſing, giving (if the expreſſion may be allowed) the ſolemnity of diſtant thunder. The effect of the pedal keys in pealing baſes, is pleaſing beyond deſcription. The caſe of this organ is from the deſign of the Rev. Mr. Olive, and forms a fine piece of Gothic architecture. The neat Gothic front of the entrance into the choir, is from the ſame gentleman's deſign, and new prebendal ſtalls are now erecting in the choir.

Within the communion rails there are four tombs; the uppermoſt againſt the North wall has been aſſigned to Biſhop Lawrence de St. Martin, who died June 3d, 1274, the lower to Biſhop Gilbert de Glanville, who died June 24, 1214. The tomb neareſt the ſtalls is appropriated to Biſhop Thomas de Inglethorp, who died May 12, 1291; though it is a matter of doubt whether he might not be depoſited in the more Eaſtern tomb. This cheſt has indeed, been ſhewn for the receptacle of Gundulph's remains, but without any authority. It is certain that he was not buried near the high altar, but near the altar of the crucifix, which was placed in the centre between the two Eaſtern pillars of the nave, and no tranſlation of his body is upon record. At the foot of the ſteps of aſcent to the communion table, and not far from the ſteps leading up to the rails, there are large braſsleſs ſlabs, each of which had the figure of a Biſhop under a rich canopy: there is a ſimilar graveſtone near the great Weſt door, and two more in the South tranſept of the nave; but tradition has not perpetuated the names of any of the prelates whoſe remains they cover.—Behind the South walls of the choir, there is a chapel called after St. Edmund, though the altar erected in honour of him, was fixed in the undercroft. The builder of this chapel, and the time of its conſtruction are unknown. Through it was the common paſſage for the monks from the North cloiſter into the church, and the arch of the door of communication is ſtill diſcernable, both in the chapel, and in the garden of the fourth Prebend. The moulding of a pointed arch in the Weſt wall, ſhews there was formerly another door into this chapel. In the partition wall of the choir, there is a ſtone cheſt, which has upon it a figure of Purbeck marble, pontifically habited, lying

lying under a canopy, about thirteen feet high, curiouſly ornamented, and which terminates pyramidically. The head is entirely gone, and in its place is a flat ſtone. A part of the croſier is in the left hand; only the fore-finger of the right is remaining, which is extended to the left, and what it holds has the appearance of a book. The inſcription is ſo much defaced, that it is not poſſible to trace from it to whoſe memory this monument was erected: but there is ſufficient ground for concluding it to be the tomb of Biſhop Bradfield, who died April 23, 1283. Suppoſing it to have been the faſhion of the age to mark by a book the monument of a man of learning, this ſymbol was well adapted to the effigies of this prelate. It is ſuppoſed that originally there was a South aiſle of the ſame width with that on the north ſide of the choir, and that the wall of it might be continued to the Eaſt tranſept. Traces of ſuch a wall appear by the ſteps into the undercroft, and in what is now the Minor Canons Veſtry.

In this tranſept againſt the South wall there is a ſtone cheſt raiſed about a foot above the pavement; another of the ſame ſize was removed a few years ago. They had antique croſſes upon them, and appeared to have been forced open. It is ſaid, that ſome perſons, who, about the year 1645, defaced and pillaged the tombs in this church, found in one of theſe coffins a crucifix and a ring: Priors of this convent were moſt probably interred in them.—There is in this tranſept a door caſe, richly ornamented, that deſerves attention. It is the entrance into the preſent chapter-houſe, which is alſo uſed for a library; but it was the grand door of communication between the church and the chapter-houſe of Ernulph in all ſolemn proceſſions. The moulding of the arch of

entrance

entrance into the North cloiſter is ſtill to be ſeen. The conſtructor is unknown, as is alſo the date; but it is judged by an eminent artiſt to have been executed about the middle of the fourteenth century. Age and wilfulneſs have much defaced this elegant piece of ſculpture; and its beauties are alſo diſguiſed by the white waſh with which it has been injudiciouſly covered. It is preſumed that ſome of the portraits exhibited may be pointed out with a high degree of probability. The royal figures on each ſide, ſupported by buſtos, like thoſe on the ſide of the great Weſt door, may be reaſonably thought to denote Henry I. and his Queen Matilda; the ſcroll in the King's right hand having a reference to his new grants, and to his acts of confirmation of former rights and privileges; and the church in his left, to his being preſent at the dedication of the cathedral. The Queen is holding a book or ſcroll in her hand, but to what they particularly relate there is no clue. Gundulph having been the architect of the church, and founder of the priory, it will be readily admitted that the epiſcopal figure above the King was deſigned for him, tho' the ſymbols are ſo much mutilated, than an interpretation of them is ſcarcely poſſible. Biſhop Ernulph, who was a man of learning, will not be judged to be unaptly characterized by the book placed before the oppoſite figure. In the niche above the King and Gundulph, if we ſuppoſe the building to be a ſhrine, one ſhall hardly heſitate in determining the figure to be intended for Lawrence de St. Martin, by whoſe intereſt with the Pope William the Pilgrim was enrolled in the catalogue of Saints. What he holds in his hand, and which partly covers the ſhrine, may be meant for a pall, or a label, in alluſion to the papal bull of canonization. There is the reſemblance of a tower

in

In the oppoſite niche; and if deſigned for one, it was no unſuitable ſymbol to annex to a portrait of Haymo de Hethe, who raiſed the ſteeple in the centre of the church, and furniſhed it with bells. Still higher are four angels, two on each ſide, with labels in their hands, enwrapped in clouds. They appear ſinging praiſes to the ſmall ſtatue in the centre, ſurrounded with clouds, deſigned, moſt likely, for the reſurrection of our Saviour. In memorials of the church of Rocheſter, inſerted in Mr. Thorpe's Antiquities, there is an accurate elevation of this beautiful relick of antiquity, and of the great Weſt door, with a variety of places relative to this cathedral and its precincts; and from theſe memorials, the deſcription of this cathedral is chiefly collected From a window in the Library is a fine view of the ruins of the old chapter-houſe.

The North-eaſt tranſept was formerly ſeparated from the choir by a ſcreen of wood, with Gothic arches. Before the reformation devotees without number uſed to viſit the chapel, becauſe St. William, from whom it acquired its appellation, was inſhrined in it. The tomb, which conſiſts of a large ſtone coffin, of Purbeck marble, adjoins to the North wall, near a door that leads up to an apartment over the Eaſt end called the Treaſury. This ſhrine, containing within it a ſource of wealth to the Monks, it may be preſumed that it was by them richly ornamented. But whatever decorations it may have had, it now makes a mean appearance. A palmer's ſtaff upon the lid ſtill ſerves to denote the claſs of the perſon here depoſited. Hubert de Burg, Juſticiary of England, in the reign of Henry the Third, *gave the middle Window at the ſhrine of St. William.* The window here deſcribed, it is apprehended, is not either of the central windows now extant, but a window

that

that was under them. The ſtone frame of it may be ſeen in the wall without the church; and to the Weſt of the window is a niche in which might be placed the ſtatue of this imaginary Saint. Conſidering the illuſtrious rank of the donor, it is very probable that the window was ornamented with coloured glaſs; and if, as it is not unlikely, ſome legendary tale of William was repreſented, it was doubtleſs defaced in purſuance of the ſtatute of 3d and 4th of Edward VI. c. 10; perhaps ſome painting on the ſame ſubject might be diſcovered upon the wall upon the ſhrine, were the white waſh carefully peeled off.—The monument to the Weſt of this ſhrine is to the memory of Walter de Merton, founder of the College in Oxford, which bears his name. He died October 27, 1277, being drowned by unwarily paſſing a river, the depth of which was unknown to him; and he is the earlieſt prelate of the See of Rocheſter, whoſe place of burial in the cathedral can be aſcertained by his tomb. The original monument was made at Limoges, in France, where the art of enamelling moſt flouriſhed, and that was anciently a common ornament of ſumptuous tombs. Forty-one pounds, five ſhillings, and ſix-pence, was the expence of conſtructing it, and of the carriage from Limoges to Rocheſter. This tomb was almoſt entirely deſtroyed at the Reformation, and a new and elegant monument erected in 1598, at the expence of the warden and fellows of Merton College. In 1662 it was repaired, and in 1772 cleaned and beautified by the ſame learned body. From this prelate this chapel has acquired the appellation of Merton Chapel. The monument oppoſite to it is in memory of Biſhop Lowe, who died September 30, 1467. It is ſtill in good preſervation, and is the oldeſt monument in the church

with a legible inſcription. This may probably be owing to the letters not having been engraven on a braſs plate, but cut in high relief upon the ſtone, which is of Suſſex marble. At the Weſt end, within a ſhield held up by an angel, are the family arms of the Biſhop, impaled with the arms of the See of Rocheſter, which are, however, placed on the ſiniſter ſide. The Prelate's arms on a bend, three wolves heads eraſed, are thought to be an alluſion to his name; Louvre being, in French, a ſhe wolf. At the Eaſt end of this chapel, on the North ſide, is a beautiful tomb of white and black marble, and alabaſter, in memory of Biſhop Warner, who died in 1666, in the 86th year of his age, and was the laſt Prelate of the See interred in this cathedral. Between Lowe and Warner, Hilſey was the only Biſhop interred here. The time of his death is not quite certain, but ſuppoſed to be about the end of the year 1538. It was Biſhop Warner's deſire that his remains ſhould be covered with a grave ſtone, having on it no other inſcription than "Hic jacet cadaver Johannis Warneri, totos annos xxix Epiſcopi Roffenſis, in ſpem reſurrectionis." In this inſtance, however, and in this only, his executors did not comply with his requeſt; for, from the moſt reſpectful motives they erected this monument, with an epitaph too long to be here inſerted. But the moſt honourable memorial entailed on the name of this Prelate is his munificent endowment of Bromley college, for the ſupport of twenty widows of clergymen.

Oppoſite to the tomb of Biſhop Warner is a neat monument, of black and white marble, to the memory of John Lee Warner, Archdeacon of Rocheſter, who died the 12th day of June, 1679, aged 74 years; and between the two is a monument of white and grey marble, to

the

the memory of Lee Warner, Esq. who died March 4, 1698, aged 45 years. At the top are the arms in a shield, supported by two angels under a rich canopy.

Behind the West wall of this chapel, there were apartments that have long been ruinous; nearly opposite to the door of communication chimneys are to be seen, and on the side of one of them is part of an oven. As these rooms were appropriated to the sacrist of the monastry, he might in this oven bake the sacramental wafers. To the West of these apartments are considerable remains of a tower, styled in a lease dated April 7th, 1545, the three bell steeple, and though it was a passage leading up to the great tower that is styled in the same lease, the six bell steeple. It retains to this day the appellation of Gundulph's tower, from a traditional notion of its having been built by him. Between this tower and the North aisle of the choir were the wax chandlers chambers; marks of the floors are discernible. The person to whom these apartments were demised by the lease just cited, was to pay to the Dean and Chapter the rent of a taper of one pound of wax to be offered on Good Friday to the sepulchre of our Lord.—From this chapel is a descent into the North aisle by several steps, which being much worn shew their antiquity, and are a proof of the great resort there formerly was to the shrine of St. William. Against the wall of the choir is an altar tomb, placed under a light canopy arch, and within the arch, above the tomb is a mutilated angel which holds a scroll. It has been assigned to Bishop Haymo de Hethe, who died in 1352, and the style of its architecture is of that age. It is the more likely that this prelate might himself fix upon this spot for the place of his sepulture; because from its being in the way to St. William's chapel, in which he

founded

founded a chantry, pilgrims as they paſſed might be reminded to offer a Pater Noſter and an Ave Maria for his ſoul. Mr. Gough in his curious, ſplendid, and uſeful Hiſtory of Sepulchral Monuments, has at page 103, given a plate of this tomb. When the North tranſept of the nave was building, it was termed the new work towards St. Will am's gate. This gate was placed oppoſite the North door, through it was an entrance into the High-ſtreet, where there was a croſs erected in honour of the ſaint. The gate near the North door of the church, over which is a room belonging to the houſe of the third Prebendary, was formerly called the ſacriſtry gate. It was ſo denominated from its leading to the apartments and garden of the ſacriſt, and it might alſo lead to the Prior's lodgings, as it does at preſent to the deanery.

In the cemetery called anciently Le Grenechurch Haw, on the North ſide of the cathedral, is the church belonging to the pariſh of St. Nicholas. For ſeveral centuries after the Conqueſt the inhabitants of this diſtrict uſed to offer their devotions at a parochial altar within the cathedral. The original ſituation of it is not known; but about the beginning of the fourteeenth century, as it is believed, the monks removed the altar to the upper part of the nave near the ſteps of aſcent to the choir, as being to them a leſs incommodious place. In the Eaſt wall of the North tranſept there is a receſs, in which an altar appears to have been erected; and if this was the altar dedicated to St. Nicholas, an objection might be made to the ſite of it, becauſe the aſſembling of the pariſhioners in that aiſle would often interrupt the acceſs of the pilgrims to the ſhrine of St. William. The Prior and the Chapter afterwards promiſed to accommodate

the parishioners with a piece of ground, whereon they might build a separate place of worship; but notwithstanding the inconvenience and trouble that must so frequently have arisen from the people's resorting to their parochial altar; so solicitous were the monks to retain the parishioners in a state of dependence on the mother church, that a hundred years past before they would fulfil their engagement. The spirited conduct, however, of Bishop Young, and the interposition of Archbishop Chicheley, to whose arbitration all parties agreed to submit, at length prevailed over the pride and obstinacy of the members of the priory: and the parishioners were, by a composition, dated March 7, 1421, suffered to finish their church, the walls of which had been raised some years before. It appears from the register of Bishop Langdon, that, on account of his being absent, the church was consecrated by John, Bishop of Dromore in Ireland, on Sunday December 18th, 1423.—By the first article of the agreement, the parishioners were on no account, without leave of the convent, to enlarge the original fabric, except by the addition of a belfry at the North-west end, and the hours were specified when they were permitted to ring the bells. This belfry was not built before 1452, because Alicia Hunt bequeathed by her will, dated in that year, four marks to be paid by her executors "in inchoatione fabricæ campanilis eccles. St. Nic. Roffen." A difference arose between the convent and the parishioners soon after the finishing of their church, in consequence of their attempting to erect a porch at the West end. And the monks were to be commended for putting a stop to the work, since it was not only a direct violation of the original composition, but must have obstructed the passage leading from the

cemetery

cemetery gate to the cathedral, and to the entrance into the priory. The church, of which no deſcription is extant, becoming about 1620 incapable of a thorough repair, it was taken down, and the preſent fabric erected upon the ſame ſpot. According to the inſcription over the Weſt door, it was dedicated September 20, A. 1624, in the Mayoralty of John Duling. But as ſtated in an entry in the church book, the church was conſecrated by Biſhop Buckeridge on the 19th of that month, and the new church-yard the day following, James Deyer being vicar, and Anthony and John Rockwell churchwardens. The church extends in length from Eaſt to Weſt 100 feet, and from North to South 60 feet. It is a very ſubſtantial building; the ſtone walls being of conſiderable thickneſs, and ſupported on all ſides by buttreſſes: It conſiſts of a nave and two ſide aiſles, which are ſeparated from the nave by two ranges of lofty columns, from which ſpring the arches that ſupport the roof. This church has lately undergone a thorough repair at a very conſiderable expence.

The traveller having paſſed St. Nicholas church, will enter the principal ſtreet in Rocheſter through what is now termed College-gate, but anciently the cemetery, and often Chertſey's gate, from Edmund Chertſey, gentleman, who was poſſeſſed of a tenement near it in the reign of Edward IV. In many grants dated before the conqueſt, there are many references to walls and gates for fixing the boundaries of lands or houſes; but the time when this city was firſt encompaſſed by a wall has not been ſatisfactorily ſhewn. Some have ſuppoſed it was originally built by the Romans; and Dr. Stukeley gave it as his deciſive opinion, that at the Weſt end of the North wall there are rows of Roman brick placed by

that people. This eminent antiquary ſeems, however, to have taken for granted, what others may think to be rather queſtionable, that both Britons and Saxons were unacquainted with the Roman method of making bricks. The walls were built nearly according to the four cardinal points. From Eaſt to Weſt they may be towards half a mile diſtant, and from North to South not a quarter of a mile. They are entire in ſome places; the North-eaſt angle in particular ſtill retains its ancient form, height, and embraſures; and the city is without gates, but the ſites of the three old gates are known. In the deſcription of the outer bailey of the caſtle, the South gate was mentioned. There was another called Cheldegate, which muſt have been in that part of the wall that croſſed the bottom of the lane oppoſite College-gate, for Cheldegate was the ancient appellation of that lane; Eaſt-gate was the third gate, it ſtood at the Eaſt end of the High-ſtreet, and was the only gate in uſe in Leland's time, who mentions it to have been in moſt part remaining, and marvellous ſtrong. (*Itin* v. vi. p. 10.)—At the time of the conqueſt, Rocheſter was governed by a chief magiſtrate, ſtyled a Provoſt, "Præpoſitus," but was incorporated by King Henry II. in 1165. The corporate ſeal ſtill in uſe, which is a curious piece of ſculpture, is judged to be of equal antiquity with the firſt charter. The privileges granted by Henry were confined and extended by many of his ſucceſſors. The laſt charter was given by King Charles I. Auguſt 11, 1630; and by virtue of it the corporation conſiſts of a Mayor, with eleven other Aldermen, and twelve aſſiſtants, who are termed Common-Council-men, and of a Recorder and Town Clerk. The Mayor is elected on Monday next before the feaſt of St. Matthew yearly, and

ſworn

ſworn into his office on Monday next after the feaſt of St. Michael The Mayor, Recorder, ſenior Aldermen, and late Mayor, are Juſtices of the Peace, who are empowered to hold ſeſſions, to hear and determine felonies committed in the city liberties, and to puniſh delinquents. They likewiſe hold a Court of Portmote every fortnight, for the hearing pleas real, perſonal, and mixed, ariſing within the juriſdiction of the city.—A Court of Requeſt was eſtabliſhed here in the year 1782, for the recovery of debts above two ſhillings and under forty ſhillings; the commiſſioners of which court are the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen, and aſſiſtants of the ſaid city for the time being, together with five inhabitants of the pariſh of St. Nicholas, five of St. Margarets, five of Strood, three of Frindſbury, twelve of Chatham, and eight of Gillingham. The juriſdiction of this court extends throughout the city and liberties of Rocheſter, the town of Chatham, the pariſhes of Strood, Frindſbury, Cobham, Shorne, Higham, Cliffe, Cowling, High Halſtow, Chalk, Hoo, Burham, Wouldham, Halling, Cuxton, Gillingham, and the Ville of Sheerneſs.

This city ſends two members to Parliament, who are elected by the freemen at large, conſiſting of about ſix hundred Beſides a charter fair on St. Dunſtan's day, which is now held annually on the 30th of May; another fair has been held by preſcription long before any charter was granted, on St. Andrew's day, and now begins yearly on the 12th of December. Each of theſe fairs continues three days, but of old they were kept on the eve, on the day, and on the morrow of the reſpective feaſts. A market is kept every Friday, and is well ſupplied with poultry, and other articles, from the country adjacent. There is alſo a plentiful market for cattle on the laſt Tueſday of every month.

Rocheſter is 29 miles from London, 14 from Dartford, 7 from Graveſend, 10 from Town Malling, 20 from Seven Oaks, 20 from Tunbridge, 9 from Maidſtone, 28 from Aſhford, 11 from Sittingbourne, 17 from Faverſham, 26 from Canterbury, and 18 from Sheerneſs.—This city is ſituated in a pleaſant valley; and as there are no ſtagnant waters, the air is ſalubrious.—At the entrance into the High-ſtreet, next the bridge, at a ſmall diſtance from the town key on the left, are the remains of St. Clement's church. Some of the walls are ſtill viſible at the entrance of the lane, which formerly bore the name of the ſaint to whom the church was dedicated. It is now converted into three dwelling houſes, in one of which are ſome pillars and an arch entire. The pariſh of St. Clement was united to that of St. Nicholas, by the Stat. of 2 and 3 of Edward VI. c. 17.

On the ſame ſide of the ſtreet is the Town-hall, which was erected 1687. It is a handſome brick ſtructure, ſupported by coupled columns of ſtone, in the Doric order; the area under it was paved with Purbeck ſtone, at the expence of Sir Stafford Fairborne, in 1706: adjoining to the back part of the area in the gaol of this city. The entrance into the hall is by a ſpacious ſtair-caſe, the ceiling of which is curiouſly ornamented; as is the ceiling of the hall, with trophies of war, fruits and flowers. At the upper-end of the hall are full length portraits of King William III. and Queen Anne, originals by Sir Godfrey Kneller. Againſt the upper-end of the front wall, is the portrait of Sir Cloudeſly Shovel. Sir John Jennings and Sir Thomas Colby, are ranged on the ſame ſide. At the lower-end of the hall, are the portraits of thoſe two eminent benefactors to this city, Sir Joſeph Williamſon and Mr. Watts. Sir John Lake is the firſt portrait within the back

back wall; Sir Thomas Palmer, and Sir Stafford Fairborne follow in the ſame line. Theſe portraits are all executed by the moſt eminent maſters of that age. All public buſineſs reſpecting the government of this city is tranſacted at this hall, and here alſo the judges have frequently held the aſſizes for this county.

The clock-houſe was built at the expence of Sir Cloudeſly Shovel in 1686, who alſo gave the clock; and by a deed of gift, confirmed the ſame to the Mayor and Citizens for ever. The original dial being much decayed, it was taken down in 1771; and the Mayor and Citizens cauſed the preſent elegant dial to be erected; they alſo added the minute hand to the clock, and placed a large bell: over the dial are the arms of Sir Cloudeſly Shovel.—Proceeding Eaſtward, at a ſmall diſtance, and directly oppoſite to the College-gate, is the ancient Cheldegate-lane, ſo named from a gate there placed. At the bottom of this lane is a large and commodious brick building for the reception of the poor of St. Nicholas pariſh. It was erected in 1724; towards the building of it, Sir Thomas Palmer and Sir John Jennings, gave 500l. Such of the poor, who are able, are employed in ſpinning worſted and yarn.—Returning to the main ſtreet near where the pump now ſtands, was anciently the corn croſs, where was held the corn market, but it has been long diſuſed—Near to this on the left was the Cuſtom-houſe (the buſineſs of which is now removed to a more convenient houſe near the bridge;) the adjoining building to which, is the houſe appointed for the reception of ſix poor travellers. The deſign of this charity may be ſeen from the following inſcription placed over the door.

Richard

Richard Watts, eſq;
by his will dated 22d of Auguſt, 1579,
founded this charity,
for ſix poor travellers,
who, not being rogues or proctors,
may receive gratis, for one night only,
lodging, entertainment,
and four pence each.
In teſtimony of his munificence,
in honour of his memory,
and inducement to his example,
Nathaniel Hood, Eſq. the preſent Mayor
has cauſed this ſtone
gratefully to be renewed,
and inſcribed,
A. D. 1771.

That this liberal patron of the poor ſhould except rogues from a participation of his charity, is not a matter of ſurprize, for it ill becomes the friend of integrity to countenance or encourage the man of known diſhoneſty and injuſtice. But, that proctors ſhould be excluded, in ſo expreſs a manner, carries with it an inuendo, that he had no better opinion of that profeſſion than he had of thoſe he has ſtigmatized by the appellation of rogues. He might have been impoſed upon by one of the fraternity; we cannot otherwiſe account for his handing them down to poſterity, in ſuch diſreputable company, as he is reported to have done. But where a fraud has been practized, a man's rank and profeſſion ought, by no means to ſanctify the deed, tho they may be the means of ſcreening his guilt, and evading the laws. So true is the obſervation of the poet,

That

That little rogues ſubmit to fate,
For great ones to enjoy the world in ſtate.

At this diſtance of time, it is difficult to account for the exception here mentioned. Popular tradition aſſigns a cauſe, which carries with it ſome plauſible appearance of truth—That Mr. Watts had employed a proctor to make his will, in which he had *given* and *bequeathed* to himſelf no inconſiderable part of the effects of his client; who, recovering beyond all expectation, detected the fraud, and ever after conceived an averſion to that order. Particular injuries will ſometimes affect the mind with a more than common degree of aſperity; and not the individual only, by whom we have been injured, will feel our diſpleaſure; but the genus (if I may ſo expreſs myſelf) to which that individual belongs, will ſhare alſo our cenſure and diſapprobation. Yet, were we, in our commerce with the world, to ſuffer ourſelves to be directed by this rule, we muſt be inevitably diſqualified for ſociety; and, by ſo unreaſonable a miſantrophy, render our ſituation in it mortifying and unhappy, there being no profeſſion but has in it ſome unworthy members, whoſe crimes ought not to be imputed to others, becauſe of their profeſſional connection. The greater temptation to which a man's condition of life expoſes him, the more commendable is his conduct if he ſtrictly adheres to probity and juſtice. But another, in the ſame occupation, is no more entituled to reſpect and eſteem from his merit, than this laſt to the odium juſtly incurred by the mal-practices of the former; neither ought the profeſſion to ſuſtain any blemiſh from a few exceptionable characters.

But after all it is moſt probable that the teſtator, when dictating this clauſe in his will, had not in his thoughts the

the practitioners of our Ecclesiastical courts, the term Proctors not being exclusively applicable to them. And in Strype's Annals of the Reformation (v. iv. p. 293) there is a passage which will strongly induce us to believe that Mr. Watts meant those who collected money under begging briefs, and were in general a debauched set of vagrants and receivers of stolen goods. The passage alluded to, the annalist copied from an account of vagabonds and rogues in Somersetshire, signified in a letter to Lord Treasurer Burleigh in the year 1596, in which Mr. Hext, a Justice of the Peace for that county, thus expresses himself. "If some like course (viz, committing to a House of Correction, and to be forced to work,) might be taken with the wandering people, they would easily be brought to their places of abode. And being abroad they all in general are receivers of all stolen things that are portable. As namely, the tinker in his budget, the pedlar in his hamper, the glassman in his basket, and the *lewd Proctors*, which carry the broad seal; and green seal in their bags, cover infinite numbers of felonies; in such sort that the tenth felony cometh not to light. For he hath his receiver at hand in every alehouse, in every bush. And these last rabble are very nurseries of Rogues."

For the support of this charity, Mr. Watts left an estate, valued at that time, at no more than 36l. per year, which estate now produces a neat income of 500l. per annum. He ordered, by his will, that what surplus remained, after defraying the expence of this house for travellers, should be given to the poor of Rochester; in consequence of which, it is paid to the overseers and churchwardens of the parishes of St. Nicholas, St. Margaret, and Strood, in such proportions as were decreed by

by the Court of Chancery. The traveller might notice at the end of the South tranſept of the cathedral, a handſome mural white marble monument. It was erected in 1736 to the memory of Mr. Watts, by the Mayor and citizens, in teſtimony of their gratitude and his memory; and the elegant buſt which ſurmounts it was given by Mr. Brooke, who was many years the proprietor of Mr. Watts's manſion, called Satis, and for a conſiderable part of the time Recorder of Rocheſter. This buſt was ſcraped by E. Adams, and publiſhed by J. Seagoe, in 1774. The author of Britiſh Topography was miſinformed as to the buſt's being placed over the almſhouſe of the founder of this charity; but the print would be a ſuitable ornament of the room appropriated for the reception of poor travellers.

On the ſame ſide of the ſtreet, at a ſmall diſtance, is the ſchool founded by Sir John Williamſon, Secretary of State in the reign of Charles II. and a repreſentative of this city in four Parliaments during the reign of King William III. Sir Joſeph, by his will, dated October 17, 1701, bequeathed "Five thouſand pounds to be laid out by his executors in purchaſing of lands and tenements in England, for and towards the building, perfecting, carrying on, and perpetual maintaining of a free ſchool at Rocheſter, and of a ſchoolmaſter or ſchool maſters for the inſtructing and educating the ſons of freemen of that city, towards the mathematics, and other things that might fit and encourage them for the ſea ſervice, or arts and callings leading thereto."— By a decree of the Court of Chancery, "The Mayor of the city of Rocheſter, the Dean of the cathedral church, the Recorder of the city, the Maſter of the Trinity-houſe, the Commiſſioners of Chatham Dock-yard, the two Members

Members of Parliament for the time being for ever, the ſenior Prebendary of the cathedral church of Rocheſter at any time reſident there, the two Wardens of Rocheſter Bridge, the late Mayor, the ſenior Aldermen, and the Town clerk of the city for time being, for ever, are the ordinary Governors of this eſtabliſhment; and the extraordinary Governors are, the Archbiſhop of Canterbury, the Lord High Chancellor or Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, the Biſhop of Rocheſter, and the Lord or Proprietor of Cobham Hall Park."

The Eaſt gate ſtood at this end of the High-ſtreet, and might be a ſtructure as large and commodious as it was ſtrong; for by the charter of Edward IV. a licence was given to the Mayor and Citizens to build upon it for the uſe and profit of the city, new houſes, as well of ſtones as wood. A part of it was remaining till the late erection of the houſes oppoſite to the free ſchool. The ſpacious ſtreet without the gate acquired its name. The tide ſeems occaſionally to have flowed acroſs this ſtreet, there being, about the year 1529, a legacy bequeathed towards the repair of a bridge of wood in Eaſtgate.

At the bottom of this ſtreet a new road that leads to Canterbury opens to view. At the entrance of which, on the right, is a new Theatre, belonging to Mrs. Baker, comedian, built by Mr. Glover, and opened in the ſummer of 1791. This Theatre is very commodious, and fitted up in an elegant ſtyle; indeed, few country Theatres can ſurpaſs it for neatneſs and convenience. Farther on the right are a number of new ſtreets and buildings, called Troy Town; ſo denominated from Jacob Cazeneuve Troy, Eſq. an eminent wine-merchant in Chatham, who is the ground landlord.—This place bids fair to become very populous, ſtanding on a

fine

fine eminence, and eſteemed for the ſalubrity of the air. The ground is chiefly let on building leaſes for 99 years, at a ſmall reſerved rent, and conſequently the houſes in general are neatly and ſubſtantially built.—On the left of the road to Canterbury are three elegant brick houſes, built by Mr. Nicholſon, one of the Aldermen of the city of Rocheſter. Theſe houſes command a delightful northern proſpect over the river and the adjacent country.—On this road the traveller will be entertained with an agreeable view of the Medway, the Ordnance Office, the Dock-yard, the guardſhips, and the ſhips in ordinary, lying from Rocheſter to Gillingham fort. The country adjacent ſerves alſo to enrich a proſpect, that the moſt luxuriant imagination cannot contemplate without pleaſure. The road was made in the year 1769, in forming which the workmen were obliged to cut through high hills, and fill up deep vallies. When the ſcheme was propoſed for paving Rocheſter and Strood, according to the preſent mode, the inhabitants of Chatham were invited to accede to the propoſal, and join in a petition to parliament for paving the three towns. The offer was rejected, which occaſioned the new road to be made behind Chatham, and gave travellers an opportunity of purſuing their journey without going thro' a town, whoſe pavement, dirt, and darkneſs, had been long a public complaint. Senſible of theſe inconveniences, the inhabitants have ſince procured, at their own expence, an act to pave, light, and cleanſe the ſtreets; which act having been carried into execution, the town is greatly improved, and rendered much more commodious, as well for thoſe who reſide there, as for travellers. That the inhabitants could have no objection to the meaſure itſelf, is evident, from their having

ſince adopted it; but why they ſhould refuſe to join the propoſed coalition, whereby they would have received the benefit of a very conſiderable income ariſing from a toll at Strood, can only be accounted for from that ſpirit of party and oppoſition, which is too often excited on thoſe occaſions; and which, it is to be much lamented, too univerſally prevails. But their having carried it into execution ſince, at their own coſt and charge, is, however, a proof of diſintereſtedneſs. The liberal contributions raiſed amongſt themſelves, for this purpoſe, deſerve alſo to be mentioned, but particularly the generous aſſiſtance given by one Gentleman on this occaſion, who paid the whole expence of the act of parliament, which amounted to about 250l.—At a ſmall diſtance from the entrance on the new road is St. Catharine's Hoſpital, founded by Simon Poten, maſter of the Crown Inn, in 1316, for the ſupport of leprous or other diſeaſed perſons. It is now the habitation of twelve poor widows, who have ſeparate rooms to dwell in, are found in coals and candles, and receive each about 50s. per annum.

Betwixt Rocheſter and Chatham is St. Margaret's Bank, on which is a row of houſes that command the river, and are pleaſantly ſituated. The road to Chatham runs under it. At the entrance into Chatham is the King's Victualling Office, a place of great neatneſs and conveniency; from which his Majeſty's ſhips at Chatham and Sheerneſs are ſupplied with proviſions*.—

Not

* As the high price of proviſions has been frequently a ſubject of debate, and various cauſes have been aſſigned, the following account of the contract prices of freſh beef, delivered at this office for the laſt twenty-five years, may not be unacceptable to the reader. Theſe contracts

Not far from hence, on the South ſide of the ſtreet ſtood the hoſpital for leprous perſons, founded in 1078, by Biſhop Gundulph, and dedicated to St. Bartholomew. No part of the manſion is ſtanding, houſes having been long ſince erected upon its ſite, which may, however, be nearly pointed out by the chapel belonging to it, the Eaſt end of which is ſuppoſed, upon ſufficient grounds, to be of great antiquity. It is circular, having ſtone walls three feet thick, with a ſtone roof. There are three narrow windows, in one of which the zig-zag moulding uſed in the early Norman buildings may be traced, but the mouldings of the other two windows are ſmooth, being corroded by time and weather. Hugh de Troteſclive, a monk of the priory at Rocheſter, being regiſtered as the builder of a church for lepers in honour of St. Bartholomew, the conſtructing of this part of the chapel may be reaſonably attributed to him, and its age in conſequence nearly aſcertained; for Hugh was chaplain to Henry I. and by the procurement of that King elected Abbot of St. Auſtin's, in Canterbury, about the year 1124. A South-eaſt view and

tracts are made every quarter, but the average price only for each year is put down, as under:

	£.	s.	d.	
1768 —	1	13	5	Cwt.
1769 —	1	10	7	ditto
1770 —	1	6	10	ditto
1771 —	1	6	3	ditto
1772 —	1	8	1	ditto
1773 —	1	7	8	ditto
1774 —	1	8	1	ditto
1775 —	1	11	7	ditto
1776 —	1	11	6	ditto
1777 —	1	9	8	ditto
1778 —	1	6	4	ditto
1779 —	1	8	6	ditto
1780 —	1	5	8	ditto
1781 —	1	4	1	Cwt.
1782 —	1	5	8	ditto
1783 —	1	13	0	ditto
1784 —	1	10	0	ditto
1785 —	1	7	0	ditto
1786 —	1	7	5	ditto
1787 —	1	8	0	ditto
1788 —	1	8	7	ditto
1789 —	1	11	8	ditto
1790 —	1	9	9	ditto
1791 —	1	9	0	ditto
1792 —	1	10	6	ditto

The average price for twenty-five years is 1l. 8s. 11d. per cwt. which is about 3d. per pound.

plan of this chapel is exhibited in Mr. Thorpe's Antiquities, plate 1. The chapel is in length 74 feet and 6 inches. The original chapel did not extend ſo far; for in 1743, William Walter, Eſq. a reſpectable magiſtrate, who reſided not far from it, purchaſed the unexpired leaſe of three tenements, upon the ſite of which, containing about 24 feet in length, he erected the Weſt end of the preſent chapel, with its ſteeple. In the South ſide is an arch, within which was the ſtone baſin for holy water. This veſſel is ſtill to be ſeen in the North wall as you aſcend the ſteps, where it was fixed by Mr. Walter, and marks the ſpot that was the boundary of the houſes purchaſed by him. This ſacred edifice has many years been uſed as a chapel of eaſe to Chatham church. The eſtates of this charitable inſtitution, ſince the year 1627, have been veſted in the Dean of Rocheſter, as Governor and Patron of the Hoſpital, and of the brethren of the ſame. Formerly there were only three brethren, one of whom was always a clergyman, and officiated as the chaplain, but at preſent there are four brethren, and two of them are in orders.

On the oppoſite ſide of the ſtreet is an hoſpital, founded by Sir John Hawkins, for poor decayed mariners and ſhipwrights; the building appropriated for their reception was finiſhed, as appears from an inſcription in the wall, in the year 1592. Queen Elizabeth, at the requeſt of the founder, granted a charter of incorporation, by the name of "the Governors of the hoſpital of Sir John Hawkins, Knight, at Chatham." Ten penſioners are maintained in this hoſpital, who were allowed 3s. 6d. per week each, and a chaldron of coals yearly; their allowance is now increaſed to 5s. per week each. No perſon is eligible who has not been maimed

or

or diſabled in the ſervice of the navy, or otherwiſe brought to poverty. Over the gate, on the outſide, is this inſcription:

"The poor you ſhall always have with you: to whom ye may do good yf ye wyl."

Had this benevolent admonition been duly impreſſed upon the mind of the founder in an earlier part of life, he muſt have avoided what will ever be a blemiſh in his character, being a principal dealer in African ſlaves; and Captain Hawkins, it is mentioned with regret, was the firſt Engliſhman who engaged in this horrid traffic of human fleſh*.

By Queen Elizabeth's charter of incorporation of Sir John Hawkins's hoſpital, dated Auguſt 27th, 1594, the community is always to conſiſt of twenty-ſix Governors, of which number only four were to be elective, and the others by virtue of their reſpective offices. Theſe are—the Archbiſhop of Canterbury, the Biſhop of Rocheſter, the Lord High Admiral, the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, the Dean of Rocheſter, the Treaſurer, Comptroller, Surveyor, and Clerk of the Acts of the Navy, ſix principal Maſters of Mariners, two principal Shipwrights, the Maſter and Wardens of the Trinity-houſe, for the time being, and their ſucceſſors. The Commiſſioner, the two Maſter Attendants, and the Maſter Shipwright of Chatham Dock-yard, are now always Governors of this charity; and the preſent elected Gover-

* Captain Hawkins, in 1565, got the firſt potatoes for ſhip proviſions from the inhabitants of Santa Fe, in New Spain. He introduced the root into Ireland, whence it was farther propagated through all the northern parts of Europe.

nors are Iſaac Wildaſh, Eſq. John Ruſſel, Eſq. Thomas Tomlyn, Eſq and John Longley, Eſq.

This hoſpital was lately taken down, and rebuilt on a more commodious plan than before; the principal entrance is now facing the ſtreet, and the apartments are rendered light and airy: one of the elected Governors having generouſly given a benefaction of 500l. for this purpoſe.

But the principal object which deſerves the attention of a traveller, in Chatham, is the Dock-yard. This arſenal is very commodious and convenient. It was much improved and enlarged by Queen Elizabeth, who viewed it, and built Upnor-caſtle for its defence. Charles I. erected ſeveral conſiderable ſtorehouſes, and extended the ſite of the yard. His ſon, Charles II. took a view of it in 1660. This Dock-yard, including the Ordnance wharf, is about a mile in length. The Commiſſioner, and other principal officers, have elegant houſes to reſide in. Here are many ſpacious ſtorehouſes, one of which is 660 feet in length. The ſail loft is 209 feet long. Though an immenſe quantity of ſtores of all kinds are depoſited in theſe magazines, yet they are arranged in ſo regular a manner, that, on any emergency, whatever is wanted may be procured with the greateſt diſpatch, and without the leaſt confuſion. In the ſmith's forge are twenty-one fires conſtantly employed. Here are made the anchors, ſome of which weigh near five tons. The new ropehouſe is 1140 feet in length, in which cables are made one hundred and twenty fathoms long, and twenty-two inches round. In this yard are four docks for repairing ſhips, and ſix ſlips for building new ones. Here was built the Victory, a firſt rate, carrying 110 guns, and the largeſt ſhip in the navy.

navy. The new Royal George, of 100 guns, was built here in the year 1788, and was the first ship of that rate ever launched from a slip—The Royal Charlotte, of the same dimensions, was launched in the year 1790. The Ville de Paris, of 110 guns, is now building, and will be on still larger dimensions.—The ordnance wharf is situated to the South of the Dock yard, being only separated from it by a flight of stairs, made for the conveniency of landing from, or embarking in boats. This was the original Dock-yard; and, from this circumstance, is now frequently called the Old Dock. The guns belonging to each ship are arranged in tiers, with the name of the ship to which they belong marked upon them; as also their weight of metal. The armory is deservingthe inspection of the curious.

Chatham church is situated on an eminence adjoining to the office of Ordnance. It was destroyed by fire about the middle of the fourteenth century; and, in order to enable the inhabitants to rebuild it, the Pope, by a bull dated 1352, granted, to all who should contribute their assistance to so pious a work, a relaxation from penances for a year and forty days. The end of the church, lately standing, was nearly all that remained of the building raised by the Pope's brief. The North and South aisles were of a later date. The Royal Dock yard having been much enlarged, the inhabitants of this parish were, in consequence, considerably increased. In 1635, the commissioner of his Majesty's navy repaired the new church, rebuilt and enlarged the West end, and erected the steeple. In 1707, the gallery over the South aisle was built by Commissioner St. Loo, of Chatham-yard, for the use of the navy and ordinary. But notwithstanding these enlargements, the church was too small for the parishioners; and in the year 1788, this

church

church was pulled down, except the ſteeple part, and rebuilt with brick on extended dimenſions; the galleries are ſpacious and uniform, and the light happily diſpoſed throughout the fabrick, and is now capable of holding the pariſhioners without inconvenience.

The expence of this undertaking is defrayed partly by a brief, partly by contribution, and the reſt by an aſſeſſment on the pariſhioners. The preſent fabrick was deſigned by Mr. J. Sutherden, maſter carpenter of his Majeſty's Dock-yard, at Chatham, and executed by contract under his immediate inſpection. Several elegant marble monuments are re-fixed in ſeveral parts of the church.

The church-yard being too ſmall for the great number of pariſhioners, the office of Ordnance have granted a large piece of land a little diſtance from the church for a burying-ground.

Adjoining to the Dock-yard is the village of Brompton, which is partly in the pariſh of Chatham, and partly in that of Gillingham. It is ſituated on an eminence, and commands a pleaſing view of the river, in its various directions. One row of houſes, in particular, is called, from its agreeable ſituation, Proſpect-row. Brompton, from its vicinity to the yard, has been much increaſed of late years in population and extent. The ſtreets are wide and clean; for lying on a declivity, the water is ſoon carried off. Behind, and on each ſide of Brompton, is a tract of land, called the Works, on which there had formerly been redoubts; and a line of circumvallation was in the laſt war thrown up, by way of ſecurity to the Dock-yard, which has received very conſiderable improvements; ſeveral out-works are alſo erected for the more effectual ſecurity of that important arſenal.

arſenal. Here are two redoubts near the extremities of the lines, and a ſpacious magazine for powder, &c.

Near Brompton are very commodious barracks for the reception of ſoldiers, which are reckoned the moſt healthy of any in England. In the ſummer of 1778, barracks were alſo erected for the reception of the marines, which are very neat and convenient.

Leaving Chatham, the traveller aſcends a hill of ſome conſiderable height, on the ſummit of which he will be delighted with a landſcape truly pictureſque and beautiful. The proſpect is extenſive and variegated, interſperſed with a view of hills, dales, orchards, cherry-gardens, hop-grounds, woods, churches, farm-houſes, and the windings of the Medway.—The hops of this county are in much repute, of which the reader may not be diſpleaſed with the following poetical deſcription:

——— On Cantium's hills,
The flow'ry hop, whoſe tendrils climbing round
The tall aſpiring pole, bear their light heads
Aloft in pendant cluſters; which in the malt's
Fermenting tuns infuſed, to mellow age
Preſerves the potent draught.

Famous as Kent is for its growth of hops, and good as is the barley which this county produces, ſtrangers are apt to complain, not without ſome cauſe, that our malt drink is not ſo palatable as what they meet with in other parts of England. That was not the caſe in the reign of Henry II. for in an account, by Giraldus Cambrenſis, of the luxurious manner of living of the monks of Chriſt Church, Canterbury, it is related, that they had an exceſſive abundance of wine, particularly claret, of mul-

berry

berry wine, of mead, and of other ſtrong liquors, the variety of which was ſo great in theſe repaſts, that no place could be found for ale; though the beſt was made in England, and particularly in Kent. But the inferiority of Kentiſh to London ale, ſeems to be implied in one of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales; and, for the amuſement of the traveller, the following remark is inſerted, taken from the new edition of that work, v. iv. p. 208.

V. 383. London Ale.] "Whether this was a different ſort of ale from that of the provinces, or only better made, I know not; but it appears to have been in requeſt about a century after Chaucer. In the account of the feaſt of Archbiſhop Warham, A. 1504, are the following articles. Leland's Collect. App. p. ii. p. 298.

"De cerviſia Londini iiii dol. - - - - vi li
"De cerviſia Cant. vi dol. prec. dol. - - xxv. s
De cerviſia Ang. Bere xx dol. prec. dol. - xxiii s. ivd.

"So that London ale was higher than Kentiſh by 5s. a barrel." By the Stat. 23 Hen. VI. c. 4. (A. 1455.) it is directed, "That no perſon in the county of Kent ſhall make above a hundred quarters of malt into beer for his own uſe; which, as Mr. Barrington obſerves, is a very ſingular regulation, nor of the occaſion of it can he form a gueſs, if it had not been found in Cade's rebellion, which aroſe in Kent; that it had been much fomented and increaſed by the help of this animating liquor to an Engliſhman in the cellars of the gentlemen of this county, which the rioters probably made a free uſe of.—*Mr. B.'s Obſervations on the more Ancient Statutes.*

Standgate-creek, where ſhips perform quarantine, Sheerneſs, the Nore, and the coaſt of Eſſex, are to be clearly

clearly ſeen. On the ſide of the hill are many curious plants, which will afford much entertainment to the botaniſt. Harris ſays, that the hedge, on the left hand, is on the old Watling-ſtreet road of the Romans. Near the 33d mile-ſtone is a road which leads to a village, called Gillingham. In the church are ſeveral monuments erected to the memory of eminent perſons, ſome of which are as early as 1431. Over the porch at the Weſt end is a niche, in which ſtood the image of the famous lady of Gillingham. This manor was formerly in poſſeſſion of the Archbiſhop of Canterbury, who had a palace, and frequently reſided here; in the chapel of which ſome Biſhops appear to have been conſecrated. Veſtiges of the palace may be traced, of which a plan is given in Bibliothec. Topogr. Britan. No. IV. part I. as is alſo the Eaſt view and Ichnography of a barn, ſuppoſed to have been formerly a part of the hall; but it is called the chapel. The grange is a manor of note in Gillingham. In the reign of the firſt William, it was in the poſſeſſion of Lord Haſtings; and in the reign of Henry III. was held by a deſcendant of that family, on a tenure of finding two oars for the ſhip which ſhould carry the King from Dover to Whitſand near Calais. This manor is a member of the port of Haſtings, one of the Cinque Ports; and out of the twenty-one ſhips to be furniſhed by that port, the owner of this manor was to provide ſeven, with his men in armour.

Twidale and Lidſing are two other manerial diſtricts in Gillingham. The chantry chapel belonging to Twidale was ſituated about a mile to the Eaſt of the Grange. In Philipott's time, and for a century after, the ſeats and other remains ſhewed it to have been formerly an elegant piece of architecture. It was taken down in 1756.—

Lidſing,

Lidſing, which ſtands on the South ſide of the turnpike-road, is now a chapel of eaſe to Gillingham. The chancel was rebuilt with brick at the expence of the Rev. Mr. Jenkinſon, the late vicar. An engraving of this chapel is publiſhed in the number of Bibliothec. Topogr. Britann. above-mentioned. William Adams, the firſt Engliſhman who effectually diſcovered the iſland of Japan, was a native of this pariſh. He ſerved the Engliſh company of Barbary merchants ten years, and was for fourteen years employed by the Dutch in India. Being pilot to their fleet of five ſail, he conducted them to Japan, and in order to the ſettlement of trade, endured many hardſhips. He died at Firando, in Japan, in 1612. Gillingham, on account of its vicinity to the Medway, was much expoſed to the depredations of the Danes. Hiſtory gives an account of a battle having been fought here between Canute, a leader of theſe lawleſs plunderers, and Edmund Ironſide, in which the former was worſted. At Gillingham, on the banks of the river, is a ſmall fort, originally intended to annoy the ſhips of any hoſtile invader. It is, at preſent, a fortification, of no ſtrength or conſequence.—The white ſpire which appears on the oppoſite ſide of the river, is the ſteeple of Hoo church.

Between the 34th and 35th mile ſtones is the village of Rainham. In the church, the ſteeple of which is a ſtrong neat building, are ſeveral ancient monuments, particularly an elegant marble ſtatue of Nicholas Tufton, Earl of Thanet; and under one of the chapels is a curious vault which belongs to that family. The country near Rainham ſeems, in the 16th century, to have been ſo open as to have entitled it to the appellation of a Down—for writes Holinſhed, A. 1539-40. "From Canter-

Canterburie Lady Ann Cleve came to Sittingburne, and laie there that night. As ſhe paſſed towards Rocheſter on new yeare's even, on *Reinam downe* met her the Duke of Norfolke, and the Lord Dacres of the South, &c. which brought her to Rocheſter."

"The people of this place, (Rainham) obſerves Weever, make a great vaunt of the beſt wheate in all Kent, or Chriſtendome." *Funeral Monuments*, p. 287.

The 37th mile ſtone ſtands in the ancient town of Newington. The church is large and neat, and is ſituated at ſome diſtance from the ſtreet, on the left hand. In it are ſeveral monuments, particularly of the Cobham family. A flight of ſtone ſteps ſtill remains, which leads to what was formerly a rood loft. In this town was a nunnery, to which belonged the manor of Newington; but by whom founded or endowed does not appear. The traditionary account taken from Thorn's Chronicle of St. Auſtin, at Canterbury*, ſays, That the Prioreſs was ſtrangled in her bed by ſome of her nuns, who, to ſcreen ſo execrable an aſſaſſination, threw her body into a pit; but this horrid tranſaction being not long after diſcovered, King Henry III. delivered ſuch as were culpable to the ſecular power, to ſuffer according to their demerit, removed the guiltleſs to the nunnery at Minſter in Shepey, and filled their cloiſter with ſeven ſecular canons. Four of whom, not long after, murdered one of their fraternity; upon which, the two innocent canons conveyed their two parts of the manor to the Abbey of St. Auſtin, and the other five were granted by the King to Richard de Lucy.

* Col. 1931.

On an elevated ſituation to the Southward, juſt beyond the town, is Standard-hill, where, tradition ſays the Roman eagle was once diſplayed. It is in general agreed by ſuch as have ſearched moſt into the antiquities of this county, that this was the Durolevum of the Romans. In an adjoining field, called Crockfield, have been dug up ſeveral hundreds of Roman pots, urns, and other veſſels; ſome of the urns were of very large dimenſions, and embroidered with particular inſcriptions; "One," ſays Philipott, "had *Severianus Pater* inſculped on it; another was indorſed with *Priſcian*, and a third with *Fulvius Linus*." It was obſerved, that wherever a great urn was found, ſeveral leſſer veſſels were found about it, and generally covered with a laying of the ſame earth with the body of the pot; from this circumſtance, as well as from the number of pots found empty, and laying in various poſitions, it is conjectured the Romans had a pottery near this place.

The firſt aſcent which appears after leaving Newington-ſtreet, has, for many ages, been diſtinguiſhed by the name of Caicol-hill; ſo called, as is ſuppoſed, from the Kentiſh Britons being defeated in this place by Caius Trebonius, who was detached from Cæſar's camp with three legions, and all his cavalry, to forage.

On the other ſide of the 38th ſtone is Key-ſtreet, corruptly (remarks Mr. Haſted) no doubt, for *Caii* ſtratum, or Caius's ſtreet, though the alehouſe in it having the ſign of the Key, has raiſed an idea of its taking its name from thence; (*Hiſtory of Kent*, v. ii. p. 639.) which leads into the fruitful and pleaſant Iſle of Shepey.—Borden church appears alſo on the right, in which is a monument erected to the memory of that eminent antiquarian,

quarian, Dr. Plot, author of the Antiquities of Oxford and Staffordſhire.

Half a mile to the left of the 40th ſtone is the ancient and Royal town of Milton, ſituated, as it were, on the waters of a fine rivulet, at the head of a creek that runs into the Swale, which ſeparates the Iſle of Shepey from the main. Antiquity has dignified it by calling it "The Royal Town of Middleton." When King Alfred divided his kingdom into hundreds and ſhires, Milton was in his poſſeſſion, and therefore was ſo denominated: it was honoured with a Royal Palace, which was ſituated near where the church at preſent ſtands, about a mile North-eaſt of the town: it was a flouriſhing place until the reign of Edward the Confeſſor; nor do we read of its being injured by the Danes, although it muſt have been viſited by them. In the ſame reign, in 1053, Earl Godwin, who had been baniſhed, came hither and burnt the palace and town to aſhes. Milton church is a large, handſome building; there was a church in this place very early; for Sexburga, the foundreſs of the nunnery at Minſter in Shepey, is ſaid to have expired in the church porch of Milton, about the year 680. It contains ſeveral ancient monuments of the Norwood family. The town is governed by a Port-reeve, who is annually choſen on St. James's day. There is a good oyſter fiſhery in the Swale, belonging to this town; the oyſters are much eſteemed in London. A market was granted by King Edward I. in 1287, and continues on Saturdays. A fair is held on the 24th of May.

Within a mile to the Eaſt of the church is a large open field or marſh, called Kelmſley-down, derived, it is imagined, from Campſley-down, or the place of camps, becauſe there the Danes under Haſtings, in 892, en-

camped on their arrival from France with eighty ships. On the East side of the down are the remains of a castle, said to have been built at that time by those freebooters; it is now called Castle-ruff. All that appears of this fortress at present, is a square piece of ground, surrounded with a large moat. On the opposite of Milton creek, and about half a mile North of Sittingbourn, are the poor remains of Bayford-castle, said to have been raised by the good and vigilant King Alfred, to secure the country from any future depredations of the Danes, after he had so effectually routed Hastings, as to oblige him to sue for peace, and to give his two sons as hostages for the observance of it. The moat and a small part of the East wall are still visible.

Near the 40th mile-stone is situated the town of Sittingbourne, which is a post town; it was formerly governed by a Mayor, and had a market, neither of which it at present retains. It has two fairs, one on Whit-Monday, and the other on the 10th of October, at the last of which servants offer themselves to hire. The church is large and handsome, and had in it several handsome monuments, among which was that of Sir Richard Lovelace, marshal of Calais, in the reign of Henry VIII. richly inlaid with brass; but this, with many others, have been injured by a fire, that burnt the inside and roof of the church in the year 1763. It is said that there was an organ in it about the time of Queen Elizabeth. Lewis Theobald, a laborious editor of, and ingenious commentator of Shakespeare, was a native of Sittingbourne. His father, Peter Theobald, was an eminent attorney in that town. Philipott says, that in the year 1420 King Henry V. with his retinue, were enter-

entertained in Sittingbourne, by John Norwood, Esq. when the bill for wine amounted to 9s. 9d. it being 1d. per pint.

STAGE IV.

Bapchild.—Tong.—Tenham.—Green-ſtreet.—Oſpringe.—Faverſham.—Boughton under Blean.—Harbledown to CANTERBURY.

THE 42d ſtone ſtands in the pariſh of Bapchild. In the window of the church are, a pall, the arms of the ſee of Canterbury, and other remains of painted glaſs. Archbiſhop Brightwald held a ſynod here in 692; in memory of which a chapel or oratory was erected; a ſtone wall, about ſixty feet long, on the north ſide of the road, is the remains of this building, which was uſed as a reſting place by the pilgrims who travelled to St. Thomas Becket's ſhrine, at Canterbury.

Half a mile to the left of Bapchild, is the village of Tong, near which are the veſtiges of an ancient caſtle, ſaid to have been built by Hengiſt and Horſa, about the year 450; part of the South wall is diſcernible within the large moat that ſurrounded the caſtle. A corn mill has been erected on the moat for upwards of two hundred years. The courteous miller informed us, that in digging within the caſtle he found a braſs helmet and a few earthen urns —On the road are frequent views of the Iſle of Shepey, ſo famous for its fine mutton. On an emi-

nence appears Minſter church, in which are ſeveral ancient monuments. The cliffs in this iſland are celebrated for their foſſils, petrified, and pyritical productions.—The ancient, but ſmall, and at preſent miniſterial borough of Queenborough is in this iſland; the number of electors is but 70, the greater part of whom enjoy places under government.——The important fortreſs at Sheerneſs is ſituated on a peninſula, and commands the entrance of the Medway; as alſo a royal dock adjoining it, for the refitting and careening ſhips of war.

Near the 46th ſtone is Tenham. Lambard ſays, it is ſo named from having originally but ten houſes. The church is large, with only a tower, but no ſteeple. There are remains of good painted glaſs in the windows. In this pariſh to the right of the road, is Linſted lodge, the ſeat of Henry Roper, Lord Tenham.—The firſt cherries introduced in England are ſaid to have been planted in this village about 1520, by Richard Haynes, fruiterer to King Henry VIII. Thus Drayton:

Where Thames-ward to the ſhore, with ſhoots upon the riſe,
Rich Tenham undertakes the cloſet to ſuffice
With cherries; which we ſay, the ſummer in doth bring,
Wherewith Pomona crowns thy plump and luſtful ſpring.

Nothing can be more pleaſing than travelling this road; where, on one ſide, the eye is charmed with the moſt luxuriant views of nature's rich productions; and on the other, with extenſive proſpects of the ſhips at the Nore,

Nore, where the waters of the Thames and Medway are loſt in the boſom of the ſea.

About a mile S. S. W. from Tenham church, on the left hand of the high road, is a field, called Sand Downs, inclo'ed on all ſides with a riſing bank, where is a large tumulus, ſituated in the middle of a ſmall wood.

The 43d ſtone ſtands at the extremity of Green-ſt eet, a hamlet in which is held a fair for cattle on the 8th of May. Here was formerly the ſeat of the celebrated Apuldorfield, who, in the time of Richard I. ſo eminently diſtinguiſhed himſelf in the holy war. His armour was hung up in the church of Lenham, in this county. About three quarters of a mile N. E. from Green-ſtreet is Caſtle-grove, in which are ſome veſtiges of an ancient fortification.

Near the 46th ſtone, on a pleaſant eminence, is a manſion called Judd's Houſe, built about the year 1652, by Daniel Judd, a committee man, and of the ſequeſtrators. Here was a manſion long before; the moat that almoſt ſurrounded it ſtill continues. The ſeat is, at preſent, the reſidence of James Flint, Eſq. who holds the eſtate by leaſe from the Dean and Chapter of Rocheſter.

Near the 46th mile-ſtone is the village of Oſpringe, with a ſtream of clear ſpring water running acroſs it. On the north ſide of the ſtreet are ſome ſlight traces of the Maiſon de Dieu, which was formerly in great repute. It was founded by Lucas de Vienna, for the uſe of the Knights Templars. On the South ſide of the ſtreet was an hoſpital for lepers and diſeaſed people, part of which ſtill remains. It was ſupported by the Templars houſe. Oſpringe church is an old Gothic ſtructure.

ture. The round flint tower, on which ſtood the ſteeple, fell to the ground October 11, 1695.

Half a mile to the left of Oſpringe is the fair and flouriſhing ſea-port town of Faverſham, giving title to an extenſive hundred in the lathe of Scray. It is ſituated on a navigable arm of the Swale, into which runs a beautiful rivulet, ariſing in the pariſh of Oſpringe, which affords a neceſſary back-water to the port or haven. The town principally conſiſts of four long, ſpacious, and well-paved ſtreets, forming ſomewhat of an irregular croſs, in the centre whereof ſtands a convenient market-place, over which is the guildhall; it contains four hundred and ſixty houſes, and two thouſand five hundred inhabitants. Although the name of this town is certainly of Saxon original, yet, that it was inhabited by the Britons will ſcarcely admit of a doubt, ſince it is allowed, that the firſt ſettlement from the continent in Kent was near a thouſand years prior to the invaſion of Julius Cæſar; and by late diſcoveries, it amounts to a certainty, that it had a being in the time of the Roman power in Britain; a Roman burying ground hath been very lately found at Davington, adjoining to the high road, and near the northern bounds of the liberty of the town, which contained upwards of twenty urns, and ſome other veſſels of various ſizes, and different coloured earth; beſides ſeveral ſingle urns dug up elſewhere in its environs, as well as ſome medals of the Roman Emperors, from the reign of Veſpaſian to that of Gratian. In the year 811 it was denominated the King's town. About 892, when King Alfred divided this kingdom into counties and their ſubdiviſions, it was of ſuch eminence as to give title to the hundred in which it is ſituated; and about the year 930 it appears to have been capacious enough

enough to afford entertainment to King Athelſtan and his great council, or parliament, of Archbiſhops, Biſhops, and wiſe men, who met here to enact laws, and conſtitute methods for the future obſervance of them. After the eſtabliſhment of William the Conqueror, this town was regiſtered in Domeſday; where, together with its manor, it continues to conſtitute a part of the royal revenue. In this record mention is made of its market, ſaid to be annually worth four pounds (equal, at the very loweſt aſſigned computation, to ſixty pounds of our money) which is an undoubted proof that the town, at that early period, was a place of conſiderable traffick and reſort. Shortly after this, the ſaid King, in recompence for ſome ſignal ſervices performed by his countryman, William of Ypre, granted to him this town and manor, in whom and his deſcendants it continued till the reign of King Stephen, who being greatly pleaſed with the town, and deſirous of erecting an abbey here, wherein he, his Queen, and family, might have their royal remains depoſited, gave to the ſaid William of Ypre, in exchange, his Queen Maud's hereditary eſtate, with all appurtenances, for this town and manor, and in the year 1147 he cauſed an abbey to be built, which was dedicated to our Saviour, and ſettled theſe, with ſome other eſtates, upon the ſame, to ſupport an abbot and twelve monks, taken from the monaſtery of Bermondſey, in Southwark, of the order of Cluniacs.

Of this abbey, which for ages diſpenſed its ſting to all oppoſers, and its honey, benedictions, and prayers, to all able purchaſers, none of its extenſive buildings now remain entire, its two gates being lately taken down, after attempts to preſerve them had proved fruitleſs, being by age become dangerous to paſſengers. The external

ternal walls, with thoſe of two or three ſkeletons of offices, unknown but by tradition, being all that are left. At the diſſolution, the clear yearly revenue of this monaſtery amounted to 284l. 15s. 5½d. and a quarter and a half of barley. Although the greateſt part of theſe eſtates were ſoon after diſpoſed of to different perſons, yet the manor, and the moſt conſiderable part of the ſcite and its demeſnes, continued in the crown till the reign of Charles I. who in his fifth year granted them to Dudley Digges, of Chilham-caſtle, Maſter of the Rolls, by whoſe will they came to his ſon John Digges, Eſq. who ſoon after conveyed them to Sir George Sondes, Knight of the Bath, afterwards created Baron of Trowleigh, Viſcount Sondes, and Earl of Faverſham; upon whoſe death they deſcended to his only ſurviving daughter, Catherine, married to Lewis Lord Rockingham, afterwards Earl of Rockingham, whoſe eldeſt ſon, George Lord Sondes, dying in his father's life-time, they came, upon the death of his grandfather, to the Right Honourable Lewis Earl of Rockingham; upon whoſe deceaſe, which happened ſoon after, the preſent Right Honourable Lewis Lord Sondes became the poſſeſſor of them.

As to the public edifices in this town, the parochial church juſtly merits our firſt attention, eſpecially as it is the only place of public divine worſhip belonging to the inhabitants. The preſent church ſeems to have been built at the latter end of the reign of Edward I. or beginning of Edward II. but there is great reaſon to think one was erected here in the times of the believing Romans; it is dedicated to St. Mary of Charity, and is in the form of a croſs, the walls whereof are of flint, quoined with Roman ſtone; it had, till 1755, when it

was

was taken down with the body, a large caſtellated tower in the middle thereof. There remains another low tower on the North ſide of the Weſt front, upon which is erected a frame of timber covered with ſhingles, in which is a tuneable peal of eight bells.

Behind this tower, within the outer walls, is a ſtrong timbered room, formerly called the *Treſory*, wherein, before the Reformation, were carefully depoſited the goods and ornaments of the church. Over this was the chamber for the ſextons, with a door opening in the bell loft. On the South ſide of the Weſt front is a room, formerly open to the church by ſemicircular arches, anciently uſed as a ſchool, and ſometimes courts temporal, and probably wardmotes, were holden here. Under this room is a neat chapel, with ſtone arches, ſupported with three pillars in the middle of it, which probably was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, as there is a memorial of one dedicated to her, ſaid to be in the church-yard. Over the South porch is another ſtone room, the window whereof is grated with ſtrong iron bars, but it does not appear to what uſe it was applied. In the year 1754 the nave or body of the church, on a proper ſurvey, being deemed in a hazardous ſtate, more eſpecially the roof thereof, and the South-eaſt pier of the middle tower; which laſt, in the year 1708, had coſt 54l. to ſecure. A faculty was obtained by the pariſhioners to pull it down, when greater damage appeared than could be conceived; for the great beam being of cheſnut timber, which covered the heavy platform covered with lead upon the tower, was found to be ſo decayed at the ends which lay in the walls, as not to have two inches thickneſs of ſound timber remaining, the inner part being quite hollow with rottenneſs. The

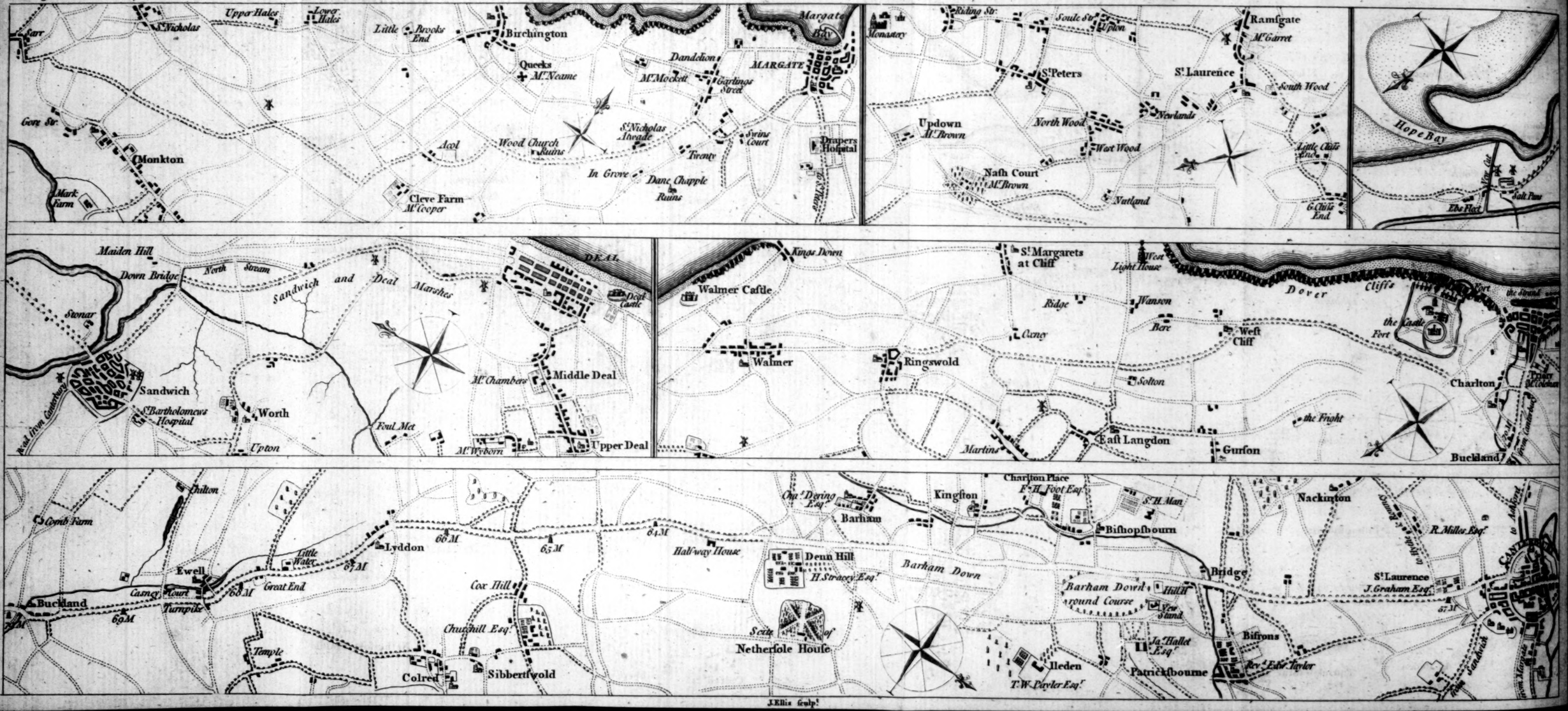
roof

roof of the nave was ſupported by large ſquare low pillars, with ſemicircular arches between them, over which was a parapet wall, with ſeveral openings therein. Mr. George Dance, an eminent architect, of London, was engaged to draw a plan of the intended alterations, which were ſoon after carried into execution under his direction. The expence of this undertaking amounted to 2300l. which ſum was raiſed by annual aſſeſſments, and has been ſome time fully diſcharged, with the aſſiſtance of the corporation; who, beſides appropriating 500l. towards the work, expended 400l. in the purchaſe of a new organ, and afterwards erecting the new pews, the ſcreen at the Weſt door, and the two braſs branches under the North and South arches. After this expenſive work was finiſhed, near 100l. was expended on improving the great chancel, which was become by age very unſightly. The inſide of this now elegant and ſpacious ſtructure meaſures from Eaſt to Weſt, including the chancel, 160 feet; the width of the body 65 feet; the length of the aiſles from North to South 124 feet, and their width 64 feet. Here are no galleries to obſtruct the hearing, that for the organ being commodiouſly placed in the niche formed by the walls of the belfry, and the writing ſchool over the entrance of the Weſt door, the new ſcreen terminating the front thereof. Before the Reformation, beſides the high altar in the great chancel, there were two chapels; one dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and another to St. Thomas, and divers altars erected in other parts of this church. There are ſeveral ancient monuments; ſome mural, ſome with braſs, and others without braſs, on the floor. Theſe laſt, when the body and aiſles were new pewed, were carefully removed into more open and conſpicuous parts. On the North ſide of the

church-

Plate 3.

From S.t Nicholas *through* Margate *along the Coast to* Dover *from thence to* Canterbury.



J. Ellis sculp.t

church-yard is the free grammar ſchool, erected by the inhabitants, in conſequence of a grant obtained from queen Elizabeth, in the 18th year of her reign; though the firſt foundation of a grammar ſchool in this town was laid by Dr. Cole, a Kentiſhman, one of the chaplains of the royal chapel, and warden of All Souls college, Oxford; who, by indenture, dated the 10th of December, in the 18th year of Henry VIII, gave to the abbot and convent of Faverſham, divers lands in the neighbourhood for maintenance of a ſchool, wherein the novices of the abbey were to be inſtructed in grammar; but the diſſolution happening ſoon after, the lands became inveſted in the crown, where they continued till the reign of queen Elizabeth, when the above charter was granted. By this charter, the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of Faverſham, and their ſucceſſors, were appointed governors of the revenues of the ſaid ſchool, and that they ſhould have a common ſeal to uſe in all matters relating to the ſame, but the maſter to be appointed by the warden or ſub-warden, and ſix ſenior fellows of All Souls college, Oxford. The lands appropriated for the ſupport of this ſchool are now let at upwards of 82l. per annum, out of which the maſter is paid a yearly ſalary of 60l. and the reſidue, after repairs and incidental charges are deducted, is generally paid to him by the governors, once in five years. A library for the uſe of the ſchool has ſince been formed by divers benefactions, and an elegant whole length picture of the royal foundreſs has lately been placed in the ſchool-room*. On the 9th of September 1716, two charity ſchools were eſtabliſhed here for cloath-

* By Edward Jacob, eſq; F. S. A. who, in 177-, publiſhed the hiſtory of this town and port, to which we muſt beg leave to refer the reader for a more elaborate and curious deſcription than the limits of our plan will admit of, and to which we are indebted for this extract.

ing and inſtructing ten poor boys and ten poor girls belonging to the town; which have ever ſince continued to be ſupported by an annual ſubſcription of the principal inhabitants. The laſt public edifice to be noticed is the market-houſe, which was erected in 1574; the timber neceſſary for compleating ſo uſeful an undertaking was given by Anthony Sands, eſq; and ſeveral inhabitants of fourteen neighbouring pariſhes. This building, ſupported by pillars, and paved underneath with broad ſtones, is 44 feet 8 inches long, and 19 feet 7 inches wide. The rooms over the market have been uſed as a Guildhall, ever ſince the beginning of the reign of James I. On the area before the market-houſe, were formerly erected three rows of ſhambles tiled, which were private property; but they were purchaſed by the corporation and taken down, and temporary ſtalls are erected thereon. The fiſh-market is now kept under the north-eaſt part of this houſe, where the fiſh-ſellers are conveniently ſheltered, and have plenty of water near at hand. The market-days are Wedneſday and Saturday; and the fairs are now kept for three days each, beginning on the 25th of February and the 12th of Auguſt; but both markets and fairs are mere ſkeletons of what they formerly were. By means of the creek, which is the avenue to this town by water; the principal trade now carried on is by ſix hoys, three of which go alternately every week to London, with all ſorts of corn, amounting in very plentiful years to 40,000 quarters annually. Colliers alſo, which ſupply the town and neighbourhood with coals, of upwards of 100 tons burden, and larger veſſels, which import fir timber, and iron, from Poliſh Pruſſia, Norway, and Sweden, frequently reſort hither; the principal proprietors being chiefly inhabitants of this place. Here are alſo other veſſels employed in carrying wool, apples, pears, and cherries

cherries to London and other parts in the ſeaſon. The only ſtaple commodity of the town is the oyſters, taken in the fiſhing-grounds belonging to the manor of Faverſham, which were not leſs eſteemed in the time of the Romans, than they are at this day, as well at London, as in Holland and Flanders; to all which places vaſt quantities are ſent annually.—By this trade only, not leſs than 110 families are principally ſupported. In 1774 the annual average of the imports and exports for ſix years was—coaſting veſſels belonging to this port, excluſive of fiſhing ſmacks, from 40 to 150 tons, 29; coals imported 12,154 chaldrons; oyſters exported to Holland and Flanders, in 31 veſſels, 11,456 buſhels, value 3,394l.—packs of wool ſhipped for London and Exeter 2573;—ſhips entered inwards from foreign parts—from France with oyſter brood, from 4 to 7; from Norway with deals and timber, 5 to 9; from Sweden and Poliſh Pruſſia with timber, tar and iron, 2 to 6—including the veſſels belonging to Milton, Whitſtaple, and Herne, which are under the controul of the cuſtom-houſe here. A conſiderable manufacture of that dreadful compoſition gunpowder, is carried on near this town by means of the delightful rivulet beforementioned, and alſo by horſes. Theſe works were private property till about the year 1760, when they were purchaſed by government, and are under the direction of the Board of Ordnance, which appoints proper officers to conduct the whole buſineſs. Upon the river are erected at various diſtances eleven ſets of mill-ſtones, and five others that are worked by horſes, all of which are wholly employed for making the compoſition into powder; the quantity now [1774] made by theſe mills, when all are employed, is about eighty barrels per week, each weighing one hundred pounds. To work in this hazardous employment there is never a want of hands,

light labour and conſtant pay are two ſtrong inducements eaſily prevailing over the fear of danger, that by uſe is found to be too little dreaded, eſpecially as the labourers are certain of proper care being taken of them in all misfortunes. In 1767, a ſtove with 25 barrels of gunpowder blew up, which did conſiderable damage to the town; but the moſt horrid exploſion happened on April 17, 1781, when the corning mill and duſting houſe belonging to the royal works, in which were about 7000lb. of powder, were blown up, by which three workmen loſt their lives, two of which were torn to atoms. The exploſion was heard at the diſtance of 20 miles; all the ſurrounding buildings, both in Faverſham and the adjoining village of Davington, were wholly or in part unrooſed, the ceilings and chimneys thrown down, the window frames forced out, and the glaſs in all broken, and in many houſes the furniture rendered uſeleſs. A ſum of money was granted by parliament, amounting to about 12s. in the pound, which was paid to the ſufferers in part of their loſs from this terrifying accident; and the widows and children of the workmen have the pay of their huſbands or fathers continued to them for life. Again on Feb. 20, 1793, an exploſion of about 40 barrels of powder happened in one of the ſtoves, ſituated in the marſh below the town, which killed three men; but from the diſtance and the precautions taken by the maſter of the ordnance to prevent the deſtructive effects of thoſe terrible ſhocks, the damage did not extend far beyond the building and its contents. Not far from theſe royal powder mills, upon the Ore ſtream there are gunpowder works in private hands, which make conſiderable quantities thereof, for the uſe of the Eaſt India company, and other merchants. Theſe mills are improving and enlarging every day, more particularly in the art of drying the gunpowder, which is

there

there effected by the means of a conſtant ſteam of hot water, conveyed under the copper frame whereon it is placed to dry. This new contrivance is ſaid to anſwer the purpoſe exceedingly well.

Madder, the roots of which are ſo uſeful in dying reds and violets, was formerly cultivated in the neighbourhood of this town; but the many heavy expences attending a plantation of this article, and its price at market being much lower than formerly, this undertaking failed of the deſired ſucceſs; a circumſtance much to be lamented. as it afforded employment for numbers of the induſtrious poor, at a ſeaſon of the year when moſt other kinds of labour without doors were finiſhed. The corporation of Faverſham conſiſts of a mayor and eleven jurats, and 24 commoners. The mayor is elected on the 30th of September, and the choice is in the freemen at large. The jurats are choſen by the mayor and the majority of the jurats; and the commoners are elected, one moiety by the mayor and jurats, and the other by the commoners. Beſides which there are a ſteward or recorder, town-clerk, two chamberlains, truſtees of the different charities, four auditors, and other inferior officers. The dredgers or oyſter fiſhers, are under the juriſdiction and protection of the lord of the manor, who appoints a ſteward and a water-bailiff; the ſteward holds two admiralty courts annually, at which the foreman, treaſurer and other officers are choſen, and every perſon (having ſerved an apprenticeſhip of ſeven years to a freeman, and being himſelf a married man) may claim to be admitted to the freedom of the fiſhing grounds. Faverſham has uſually been eſteemed unhealthy, on account of its low ſituation; but by the pariſh regiſter, from 1756 to 1772, the annual average appears to be, baptiſms 71$\frac{1}{8}$, burials 75, marriages 20$\frac{3}{4}$; ſo that only one in 34 of the

parishioners die in a year, whereas in London, one in twenty-one die annually; and the addition of extra-parochial inhabitants, who, though not baptised, yet are commonly buried here, will bring the number of births and burials near even.—Part of this town was first paved in 1549, and the rest in 1636; in 1773 it was laid open to the London road, by a spacious avenue into Preston-street, and a bridge erected over the stream at the bottom of West-street; and all the roads to it have been widened and greatly improved within these few years; and to render it still more commodious, in 1789, an act of parliament was procured for new paving, lighting and watching the same. It has an elegant assembly-room, and a theatre; the former is numerously and splendidly attended during the winter months by most of the genteel families in this part of the county; and a company of comedians perform here occasionally.

The lands in this and the adjoining parishes are esteemed as rich and fertile as any in Kent, being part of the fruitful vale, extending from Sittingbourn to Boughton Blean.

Faversham has been honoured in early times by the presence of several kings and queens of this realm. Mary, widow of Louis XII, king of France, and sister of king Henry VIII, rested here on her return from the continent in 1515; king Henry VIII, in 1522, passed through with the Emperor and a numerous train of nobles; and that king rested here on his journey to the siege of Bullein in 1545. King Philip and queen Mary passed in 1557, and queen Elizabeth slept two nights in the town in 1573. King Charles II. in 1660, visited it, and dined with the mayor, on his restoration; and lastly, king James II. was unwillingly brought here on Dec. 12, 1688, with an intention to effect an escape into France.*

* The following authentic account of this transaction was givin by Capt.

To the north-weſt of Faverſham, on the other ſide of the rivulet, is the chapel of Davington, where was an

Capt. Richard Marſh, of this town, who was an eye witneſs to the whole:—"The nation was already in a ferment, and every one upon his guard to ſecure ſuſpicious perſons, eſpecially ſtrangers; at which time the Faverſham ſailors obſerving a veſſel of about 30 tons burthen lying at Shellneſs, to take in ballaſt, reſolved to go and board her; accordingly they went in the evening, with three ſmacks and about 40 men, and three files of muſqueteers, and in the cabin of it they ſeized three perſons of quality, of whom they knew only Sir Edward Hales; from them they took 300 guineas, and two gold medals, and brought them all three on ſhore beyond Ore, on Wedneſday, Dec. 12, 1688, about ten o'clock in the morning, where they were met by a coach, and about 20 gentlemen of the town on horſeback, and brought to the Queen's Arms at Faverſham, where Captain Marſh ſeeing the king come out of the coach, and knowing his perſon, told them, to their no ſmall ſurpriſe, that they had taken the king priſoner; upon which the gentlemen owned him for their ſovereign; then the king ordered the money taken from him to be diſtributed among them that took him, and wrote a letter to Lord Winchelſea, to come to him, who arrived from Canterbury that night, at which the king was greatly rejoiced, as having one with him, who knew how to reſpect his perſon, and awe the rabble and the ſailors, who had carried themſelves very brutiſh and indecently towards him. He deſired the gentlemen very much to convey him away at night, in the cuſtom houſe boat, and preſſed it upon their conſciences; for if the Prince of Orange ſhould take away his life, his blood would be required at their hands. But they would by no means admit of this, ſaying, they muſt be accountable for him to the Prince, and it would be the means of laying the nation in blood. After which he was carried from thence to the mayor's houſe, where he continued, under a ſtrong guard of ſoldiers and ſailors, until Saturday morning, at ten o'clock.—The king having, during that time, ſent to the lords of the council, acquainting them, that the mob had poſſeſſed themſelves of his money and neceſſaries and deſiring them to ſupply him with more; upon which the earls of Faverſham, Hilſborough, Middleton, and Yarmouth, with about 120 horſe-guards, beſides ſumpter horſes, &c. and coaches were ſent to him. They were ordered, if poſſible, to perſuade the king to return to Whitchall, but

not

eminent nunnery, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen; and founded by Fulk de Newnham, in 1153, for a prioreſs and 26 benedictine nuns, of the order of Clunis. It ſeems that the revenue to ſupport them was ſo ſmall, that they obtained the name of the poor nuns of Davington. The chapel of this ancient religious houſe is now the pariſh church, the weſt door of which ſtill remains entire, and well deſerves notice as a beautiful Saxon remain.—A few years ago, more than 20 Roman urns, and other veſſels of various ſizes and different coloured earths, aſtd ſome coins of the Roman emperors, from Veſpaſian down to Gratian, were dug up in the hill near the eaſt bounds of this pariſh.

To the ſouth of Faverſham, near the road, is the ſmall but neat church of Preſton, in which are ſeveral ancient monuments, particularly a fair alabaſter tomb, erected in 1629 by the firſt or great earl of Corke, in memory of his parents Roger and Joan Boyle, of whom the former died at Preſton March 24, 1576, and the latter at Faverſham March 20, 1586; and ſome very antient grave-ſtones, but the braſs and inſcriptions are gone.

not to put any reſtraint upon his perſon, if he choſe to go beyond the ſeas. The lords came to Sittingbourn on Friday evening, but were met by Sir Baſil Dixwell, who commanded the houſe guards in town, under the earl of Winchelſea, with ſome other perſons of quality, and perſuaded the lords to leave the guards at Sittingbourn, and they would conduct his Majeſty there the next morning, which was done, with much order and ſatisfaction, both to the king and the people. The king lay that night at Rocheſter, and went the next day to Whitehall. Sir Edward Hales, and the reſt of the popiſh priſoners, were kept in the court-hall; only Sir Edward Hales was removed to Maidſtone gaol, within a few hours after the king's departure. There were about ten popiſh prieſts and others, and three Proteſtants, who remained priſoners at Faveeſham, under a ſtrong guard, until Dec. 30, when ſome were conducted to the Tower, others to Newgate, and ſome were releaſed.

To

To the right, in the parish of Shelwich, is Lees Court, the large and magnificent seat of lord Sondes. Sir George Sondes, an ancestor of this family, in the reign of Charles I, was greatly distinguished for his loyalty and moderation during the troubles of that unfortunate prince; and a sufferer in consequence to the amount of 40,000l. in his property, besides being imprisoned for several years; and at last compelled to compound with the ruling powers that succeeded for his delinquency, for 3,500l.

To the left of the forty-ninth stone is Nash Court, a seat, belonging to Thomas Hawkins, esq; which has been in the uninterrupted possession of his family for some centuries. It has a fine green paddock in front, in which are some beautiful plantations. The house is a large handsome building, pleasantly situated on the summit of the hill, having a fine prospect over the adjacent country, and has been fitted up within these few years in the modern style; and the paddock greatly augmented and improved. The fiftieth stone is a little to the eastward of the long street of Boughton, whose church is half a mile to the right, in which are several ancient monuments; it has a body with two isles and a good stone tower, with a peal of six bells, but the spire fell down about the end of the last century —In this village are two schools, in which 100 children of both sexes are taught. In 17 6, a man's scull and bones, with an hanger, and a brass coin of Antoninus Pius, were dug up by the side of the high road here.

Before the traveller reaches the fifty-first stone, he must ascend Boughton-hill*, from the summit of which we

* Boughton-hill is noticed by Lydgate in an additional Canterbury tale.—In Mr. Warton's review of it (Hist. of Eng. Poetry, v. 11, p. 73) is this paragraph—" Our Monk, unable to withstand the profusion of kindness and festivity, accepted the hospitable invitation, and supt with the pilgrims.

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would wiſh him to look back, as, if the weather be clear, the proſpect will amply repay the loſs of a few minutes employed in viewing its various beauties and extent. This hill, and a track of land extending from it four miles towards Canterbury, was formerly the king's ancient foreſt of Bleane, in which were boars, bears, and other animals of chace; at this time conſiſting of large tracts of coppice woods, moſtly oak, and containing in the whole about 5000 acres of land, more than 1000 of which on the left ſide of the road belong to the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, the profits ariſing from the ſale of the timber and the underwood is applied to the uſe of their common fund. Here the high tower of Canterbury cathedral appears directly in the road. Between the fifty-third and fifty-fifth ſtones is the ancient village of Harbledown; noted for its pleaſantneſs and the ſalubrity of its air. On the left is a handſome ſeat belonging to ſir Robert Wilmot, bart. and on the right a good houſe occupied by John Pratt, eſq; the church is ſituate on a hill eaſt of the ſtreet, oppoſite to which are an hoſpital and chapel, originally built and endowed by archbiſhop Lanfranc, about the year 1084, for poor lepers. This hoſpital formerly held the precious relick, called St. Thomas Becket's ſlipper, mentioned by Eraſmus, as the upper leather of an old ſhoe, adorned with

The next morning, as they are all riding from Canterbury to Oſpringe, the hoſt reminds his friend Don John of what he had mentioned in the evening, and without farther ceremony calls for a ſtory. Lydgate obeys his commands, and recites the tragical deſtruction of the city of Thebes. As the ſtory is very long, a pauſe is made in deſtending a very ſteep hill near the *Throp* of *Broughton on the Blee*.—*Throp* or *Thorp*, properly a lodge in a foreſt. A hamlet. It occurs again p. 651, col. 1.—*Bren* towns, *thropes* and villages. And in the Troy book, he mentions provinces, borowes, vyllages and *thropes*." B. ii, c. x.

chryſtals,

chryſtals, ſet in copper*. The numerous pilgrims and the ſuperior order of paſſengers to the ſhrine of St. Thomas at Canterbury, uſed to ſtop here and kiſs this bauble, as a preparation for the more ſolemn approach to his tomb. Since the reformation, this hoſpital is continued for the relief of 15 brothers and the like number of ſiſters, who have, beſides a houſe, a yearly ſtipend of near ſeven pounds each. The Archbiſhop is patron, who appoints a maſter for its government.

One mile farther brings us to the ancient city of Canterbury.

STAGE V.

Deſcription of Canterbury; Caſtle; St. Auguſtine's Monaſtery; Cathedral.—St. Stephen's.—Sturry.—Fordwich.—Sarr.—Reculver.—Thanet.—St. Nicholas.—Monkton.—Cleve.—Mount Pleaſant.—Minſter.—Birchington.— MARGATE.

CANTERBURY is the capital of the county of Kent, and the metropolitical ſee of the Archbiſhop, who is primate of all England. It ſtands in the north-eaſt part of

* Becket's old ſhoe is not the laſt of the kind that has been held in high eſtimation; for in Boſwell's Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides, in the account of the eſcape of the Pretender in 1746, is the following paſſage, p. 221.—"The wanderer's ſhoes being very bad, Kingſburgh provided him with a new pair, and taking up the old ones, ſaid 'I will faithfully keep them till you are ſafely ſettled at St. James's. I will then introduce myſelf by ſhaking them at you to put you in mind of your night's entertainment, and protection under my roof,' he ſmiled and ſaid, 'Be as good as your word.' Kingſburgh kept the ſhoes as long as he lived. After his death, a zealous Jacobite gentleman gave 20 guineas for them."

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the county, 55 miles from London, 17 from Margate, 18 from Ramſgate, 12 from Sandwich, 18 from Deal, 16 from Dover, 16 from Folkſtone, 18 from Hythe, 26 from New Romney, and 15 from Aſhford.

If the Traveller's taſte be huſbandry and agriculture, the extenſive hop-gardens and their management, cannot fail to attract his notice, which are every year improving by the ſkill and induſtry of the Eaſt Kent planters, and their attention has been amply repaid by their crops, and the high price thoſe particular growths have borne at the London market, being ſince the year 1789 ſuperior to the Farnham hops;—if arts and mechaniſm, the worſted manufactures and ſilk-weavers are certainly worth his viſiting; the latter not only for the beauty of their works, and curious contrivance of their looms, but the clearneſs of the air contributes much to the ſplendour of ſuch colours as ſuffer by the ſmoke of London, when manufactured in Spitalfields; but as the ſilk trade has for ſome years been upon the decline, the laudable and enterpriſing exertions of that friend to the induſtrious artizan, Mr. John Callaway, has found employment for numbers of the poor manufacturers, by introducing, at great labour and expence, looms in the woollen and cotton branches: and from his manufactory iſſue at this time [1789] ſilks of the richeſt and moſt beautiful fabric ever produced in this or perhaps any other kingdom; muſlins of a peculiar kind, which are in high eſtimation for their durability and beauty; and woollen cloth; all which are made agreeable to the lateſt improvements; and the various and complicated machinery therein employed, will be found well worthy of inſpection by the inquiſitive and curious enquirer;—but if antiquity, or architecture are his favourite ſtudies, he will have a more ample field to range in.

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The city is ſeated in a pleaſant valley, about one mile wide, between hills of moderate height and eaſy aſcent, with fine ſprings riſing from them; beſides which the river Stour runs through it, whoſe ſtreams, often dividing and meeting again, water it the more plentifully, and forming iſlands of various ſizes, in one of which the weſtern part of the city ſtands, make the air good and the ſoil rich. Such a ſituation could hardly want inhabitants, while theſe parts had any inhabitants at all; nor was any ſpot more likely to unite numbers in forming a neighbourhood, or a city, than one ſo well prepared by nature for defence and ſituation.—This perhaps is the moſt authentic voucher in favour of their opinion, who make it a city almoſt 900 years before the birth of Chriſt. Tokens of this high antiquity are hardly to be found, unleſs Druids beads, and the ancient braſs weapons called Celts, which have been dug up in the neighbourhood, may be looked on as ſuch. But of Roman remains here are abundance; for beſides gates of their building, moſaic and other pavements, curious earthen ware, and coins innumerable, ſome preſerved in collections, and others ſold to the goldſmiths and braziers, have been diſcovered from time to time.

To give a ſhort deſcription of the city and its ſuburbs, we begin firſt with Ridingate, on the ſouth-eaſt ſide, in the road to Dover. Contiguous to this gate are two Roman arches, turned with the large and thin bricks of thoſe times, remains of which are ſtill viſible*, but the ground having been raiſed, the top of a ſtone pier, from which one of theſe arches ſprung, is but breaſt-high from the road, and the arch itſelf cut away to give the neceſſary

* Theſe arches are now entirely hidden by the alterations which this part of the city has undergone in making the improvements of the public walks in the adjoining field.

height to the preſent gate, of later conſtruction†. About two hundred yards weſtward is an artificial mount, from whence we have a fine proſpect of the cathedral, city, and the country adjoining. It is commonly called the Dungil, or Dane-John-hill, by others, Donjon, or Dungeon, a high tower in old fortifications. This, and two ſmaller mounts oppoſite to it, without the wall, are looked upon as the work of the Danes, when they beſieged the city in king Ethelbert's time; tho' probably, this mount, within the wall, was thrown up by the beſieged, to counteract the operations of the beſiegers; a practice not uncommon in thoſe times. In 1790 Donjon field was levelled—when the ſurrounding banks were formed with regular ſlopes—the hill conſiderably heightened with earth and turfed—gravel walks made, and the ſteepeſt parts guarded with poſts and chains—the old watch-towers and wall repaired, ſeats placed therein and on the mount, and limes and ſhrubs planted on the ſides of the walks, and the encloſure and ſhrubberies fenced with paling, for public accommodation and as an ornament to this part of the city, by James Simmons, eſq. In going from hence to the caſtle, we paſs by Wincheap-gap, through which was the road for many years to Aſhford and the Weald of Kent. Within the boundary of the caſtle is the county Seſſions houſe, rebuilt in 1730; which, with the caſtle and its precinct, is exempt from the juriſdiction of the city. At the weſt end of the ſeſſions-houſe ſtood the old arch of Worthgate, built alſo entirely with Roman bricks, and through which formerly was one of the principal avenues to the city. This road was again opened from the end of Caſtle-ſtreet, acroſs

† This gate was pulled down a few years ſince, to make the paſſage more convenient for carriages. In 1790 a very ſpacious arch was erected, and the terrace walk, formed on the rampart of the city wall, continued over it.

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the caſtle precinct into Wincheap, by public ſubſcription, in 1790; when the ancient arch was removed, as entire as poſſible, into the garden of a neighbouring citizen.

Though the caſtle has no appearance of Roman antiquity, yet that the Romans had a caſtle here can hardly be doubted, if we conſider that four of their *Caſtra Riparenſia* (as Mr. Somner calls their ſeveral forts on our coaſt) are within a few hours march of our city. Antoninus's Itinerary, in Camden, gives theſe diſtances of three of them, from *Durovernum* [Canterbury] *ad portum Ritupas* [to Richborough] 10 miles; *ad portum Dubris* [to Dover] 14 miles; *ad portum Lemanis* [to Stutfall] 16 miles. The preſent building appears to have been the keep or donjon of a fortreſs within which it ſtood, and of which the bounds are ſtill diſcoverable*, like that of the caſtles at Dover, Rocheſter, and the White Tower at London, and may be about the ſame age.

"Whoever looks at this ancient ſtructure attentively, will eaſily perceive, that the preſent entrances have been forced, and could never have been there originally; and that there was indeed once a grand entrance ſimilar to that at Rocheſter; and that the whole of the fortification was in the ſame ſtyle. And this I ſhall endeavour to ſhew, by giving a ſhort and general deſcription of the preſent ſtate of the whole building.

"This caſtle is 88 feet in length, and 80 feet in breadth. And the two fronts which are of greateſt extent have each four buttreſſes; whereas the others have only three; and

* In 1792 the moſt conſiderable parts of the boundary wall were demoliſhed, and an extenſive malt-houſe and other buildings erected on the ſite; ſo that a very ſmall portion is now left; the moat or ditch, which extended round the caſtle, is moſtly filled up, the only part viſible is between the new road and St. Mildred's church.

the walls are, in general, about eleven feet thick. But as this tower is ſo much larger than that at Rocheſter, there are two partition walls inſtead of one; and in theſe are, in like manner as at Rocheſter, the remains of arches of communication.

"In this caſtle is a well, juſt like that at Rocheſter, within the ſubſtance of the wall, and deſcending from the very top of the caſtle; and in the pipe of this well alſo, as it paſſes down by the ſeveral apartments, are open arches, for the convenience of drawing water on every floor.

"There is alſo in this caſtle, as in the former, a gallery in the wall; of which a part is laid open and viſible to the eye; but the ſtair caſes are ſo much ruined, that one cannot aſcend here to examine every thing with the ſame accuracy as at Rocheſter. Nor can one preciſely determine whether there were more than two ſtair-caſes; though I ſuſpect, from the appearance of the walls, that there were; and that only one went down to the ground floor.

"In all other reſpects, the mode of fortification ſeems to have been preciſely the ſame; for there were only loop-holes, and not one window under any of the arches in the walls on the firſt floor; and only a very few loop-holes on the ground floor. And the ſtate apartments may clearly be ſeen to have been in the third ſtory; where alone are found large and magnificent windows, as at Rocheſter. And in the upper appartments, next the leads, are other ſmaller windows. But there are no windows lower than the grand apartments.

"The preſent entrances on the ſouth ſide are moſt evidently modern breaches, made through the places where probably were two arches in the wall, leading to ſmall loop-holes, and indeed the preſent modern entrances to

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moſt of the old caſtles that I have ſeen, have moſt manifeſtly been obtained merely in that manner.

" But on the eaſt there appears, at a conſiderable height, a large old arch, like a door-way or portal, now bricked up; and this, on examination, will be found to have been moſt unqueſtionably the original grand entrance; for under it is a very conſiderable projection of ſolid ſtone-work, which ſeems to have been the foundation of ſome ſtair-caſe, or ſtrong adjoining building; and there are alſo on the wall of the caſtle, marks of the upper part of the ſtairs deſcending from this portal; but theſe muſt carefully be diſtinguiſhed from thoſe left by the gabel ends of ſome houſes that were built againſt this ſide of the caſtle ſome years ago, and are now pulled down.

" Theſe marks, however, of the remains of ſteps aſcending to this portal, are by no means the only indications of its having been the original entrance; for the whole plan and formation of the ſtructure within proves it. At the back of the arch thus bricked up, is a very large arched door-way of ſtone, within the caſtle, of very curious workmanſhip; and directly under it, is a ſteep ſtair-caſe leading down to a dungeon; the ſituation of which kind of priſons, appears uſually to have been under the entrances of moſt caſtles; and was ſo at Dover particularly, as well as at Rocheſter, and in this caſtle. And both theſe circumſtances are farther proofs that this was the great portal.

" The inhabitants of Canterbury, indeed, have an idea that this arch was broken through for the uſe of one of the houſes, which I have mentioned as having been formerly built againſt this ſide of the caſtle; but the largeneſs of the arch, the regular ſtone-work round it, the ſymmetry with which it is finiſhed, and the rich ſtone arched door-way within the caſtle, directly againſt this arch, ſhew their miſ-

take in this matter. And that it was in reality much more ancient than thoſe houſes, may alſo be concluded from the very circumſtance of its being bricked up ſo carefully; for, although it ſeems highly probable for many reaſons, that it might be ſo ſtopped up at the time when the houſes were built; yet it is in the higheſt degree improbable, that they ſhould have taken the trouble of doing ſo, when the houſes were pulled down, and when ſo many other cavities and breaches in the caſtle were left open, without any ſuch care being taken. I muſt therefore conclude, that here, and here only, was the original entrance, approached by means of a flight of ſteps, and a draw-bridge, as at Rocheſter; and that the fragment of the foundations of thoſe ſteps, and of the outward entrance, now remaining at the corner, was found too ſtrong to be deſtroyed, when the adjoining houſes were built*."

From hence we obſerve ſeveral breaches in the city-wall, which were made by the parliament forces in 1648, not in beſieging the town, but after they had marched in as conquerors, who at the ſame time took down the city gates and burnt them, and committed many perſons to priſon on ſuſpicion. Weſtgate, the next we come to, is the largeſt and beſt built of the whole, and though plain, makes a very handſome appearance, ſtanding between two lofty and ſpacious towers, founded in the river at the weſtern corners, embattled, porteulliſed†, and machecolated‡, and a bridge

* Mr. King's Obſervations on Ancient Caſtles, Archæologia, vol. iv, p. 392.

† The porteullis was a grate, ſpiked at the bottom, to let fall in caſe of ſurpriſe, with oppoſite grooves in the ſtone-work of the gate, to direct its fall and keep it in its place.

‡ Another old defence, being a parapet carried from tower to tower, with ſtone brackets projecting from the wall between them, ſo as to leave an opening

of two arches over the weſtern branch of the Stour at the foot of it. This gate has alſo the advantage of ſtanding open to a very long and wide ſtreet, being the entrance to the city from London. It is now the city priſon, both for debtors and criminals. Archbiſhop Sudbury is recorded as the builder of this gate, and of the wall, called the long wall, which runs northward, with the river parallel to the foot of it, till at an angle of each, it turns off round a ſmall meadow to a mill, where it again divides, and one of the branches approaching a poſtern, turns eaſtward, and receives that part of the Stour, which, entering the city at St. Mildred's, makes the weſtern part an iſland, and ran, till the year 1769, under three portculliſed arches of uncommon conſtruction, when they were demoliſhed, together with the wall, and the materials applied towards widening the paſſage over King's Bridge. The ſtone facings on each ſide of the opening in the wall, which was connected by thoſe arches, were in 1792, taken away, and the eaſtern watch-tower, heretofore a magazine for the military when lying in this city, was pulled down, and the materials uſed in the adjoining capital flour mills, built by Simmons and Royle, on the ſcite of one ſuppoſed to be very ancient, called Abbot's mill. In digging the foundation for this building, at the depth of ſeveral feet under ground, various oaken piles, and the frame of a mill-apron of ſolid oak timber, the whole as black as ebony, were diſcovered. Theſe mills, for their maſterly conſtruction and extent, are worthy of inſpection by the intelligent traveller.

opening between each, through which the defendants might pour down ſcalding water, melted lead, hot ſand, or other annoyances on thoſe who ſhould attempt to force the portcullis, or gate, without being themſelves expoſed to danger or view.

From

From this breach the wall continues to Northgate, on the road to Reculver and the Iſle of Thanet, over which is a church of unuſual length and narrowneſs, which takes its name from the gate. The tower of this church being in a ruinous condition, was taken down in 1773, and has ſince been rebuilt with brick, when the church was conſiderably ſhortened. At this gate, the mayor and corporation uſed to receive the king in their formalities, when he paſſed through, after landing in Thanet, from foreign parts, and preſent him the keys. Next to this, eaſtward, was Queningate, of which a part of the Roman arch may yet be diſcovered on the outſide of the wall. Near this is a poſtern, opened occaſionally for the convenience of the Deanry and ſome of the prebendal houſes. This poſtern is oppoſite the front gate of St. Auguſtine's Monaſtery, as Burgate, to which we come next, is to its cemetry gate, which will be noticed hereafter. Burgate is on the road to Sandwich, Deal, and the Downs; it was new built about the year 1475*. Continuing ſouth-eaſtward, we ſoon arrive at St. George's, or Newingate, which gives name to the ward in which it ſtands, as the other five gates do to theirs reſpectively. It is built in imitation of Weſtgate, and fortified in the ſame manner. In each tower of this gate is a ciſtern, from whence the city is ſupplied with excellent water, by pipes with public cocks. Juſt without it, under the city wall, a market for live cattle is kept every Saturday. Having deſcribed the ſeveral gates, it may be neceſſary to obſerve concerning the walls, that they are of chalk, faced and lined with flint, except the few Roman remains already mentioned, and that part like maſonry,

* The arch of this gate was taken down about the ſame time with that of Ridingate.

pulled

pulled down for the improvement of King's bridge and Abbot's mill. The thickneſs is about ſix feet, and the parapet and battlements well coped with maſon's work, of hard ſtone, as were the tops and loop holes of twenty-one ſquare or ſemicircular towers, built at proper diſtances, to command the ditch, which was 150 feet wide. The whole meaſure of the wall is ſomewhat leſs than a mile and three quarters.

From St George's gate a new road was opened by act of parliament in 1790, acroſs the pleaſant hop plantations, called Barton-field, to Gutterage Bottom, where it joins the old highway, which from hence to the end of Barham Downs is greatly improved under the ſame act. This new avenue to the city is daily improving, with the addition of many new buildings. On the old road to Dover, at a ſmall diſtance beyond Oaten-hill, ſtood the nunnery of St. Sepulchre, the walls and gateway of which are ſtill viſible, but the houſe is demoliſhed. Eaſt of St. Sepulchre is St. Laurence, late the ſeat of lord viſcount Dudley and Ward, but now of Mrs. Graham, widow of Col. John Graham, who repaired and beautified this old manſion. This was formerly an hoſpital for lepers, founded by Hugh, the ſecond abbot of St. Auguſtine's, in 1447. On one of the flinty piers of the old gate, a few years ſince, the figure of St. Laurence on the gridiron might be diſcovered, with a man ſtanding at his head and another at his feet; but it is now nearly obliterated. Returning hence, towards Ridingate, we paſs over part of the ancient Watling-ſtreet, or Roman military way, which extended from Dover to Weſt Cheſter, and turning to the right, paſs St. George's gate and Burgate, and arrive at St. Auguſtine's monaſtery. Mr. Somner ſays, Auguſtine the monk, the apoſtle of the Engliſh, obtained from Ethelbert, the firſt chriſtian king

of

of Kent, a certain piece of ground, on which, with the king's help, he built this abbey, in the year 978; he alſo aſcribes the ſituation of it without the city walls, to its being deſigned by the king and the archbiſhop as a place of ſepulture for them and their ſucceſſors; as by ancient cuſtom the ſepulchres of the dead were placed on the ſides of highways, of which there are many examples in the neighbourhood. Accordingly the cemetry was on the direct road from Burgate to Richborough; but the monks turned that road aſide through Longport, in order to ſecure the burying-place within their own incloſure, though a common footway lay through it many years after. The great gate of the cemetery, towards the town, is now converted into a dwelling-houſe, and that which came out near St. Martin's is walled up. The front of the abbey was to the weſt, and before the principal gate is a ſmall ſquare, towards Broadſtreet and the cathedral. At the diſſolution, Henry VIII. ſeized this as a palace for himſelf. The ſcite of it was granted to cardinal Pole, for life, 2 and 3 Philip and Mary. In 1573, queen Elizabeth kept her court here in her royal progreſs through Kent; ſhe attended divine ſervice at the cathedral every Sunday, during her ſtay at Canterbury, and was magnificently entertained, with all her attendants, and a great concourſe of other company, by archbiſhop Parker, on her birth-day, at his palace. The monaſtery is now the property of Sir Edward Hales, bart. of St. Stephen's. The wall encloſes about ſixteen acres of ground; beſides which it had an almonry without its gate, which ſtill retains its name, and ſome tokens of its antiquity; but what contributed no ſmall ſhare towards reducing it to its preſent condition, perhaps might be this; when Henry VIII. ſeized the religious houſes, the gates of St. Auguſtine's were ſhut againſt him,

till

till two pieces of cannon, placed on a hill near, made the monks haſten to deliver up their keys. However, enough remained entire to receive Charles I. at his wedding, and Charles II. at his reſtoration. When we enter, the firſt thing obſervable is Ethelbert's tower, ſuppoſed to be built about the year 1047, in which appears an arched vault, about twenty-five feet from the ground, and above each of the corner towers on the north-ſide had a newel ſtair-caſe to the top of the tower, and corbels left at different ſtories of the building. What the dimenſions of the old abbey church were, can hardly be traced with any degree of certainty; though the ruins adjoining, and the marks diſcoverable on the walls, leave ſufficient room for conjecture. The weſt front extends about 250 feet, and the walls, which incloſe the whole precinct, are ſtanding; the great gate has buildings adjoining, wherein were ſome handſome apartments, and particularly a bedchamber, with a ceiling very curiouſly painted; but the whole is now uſed as a public houſe, and this apartment is converted into a brewhouſe, the ſteam of which has defaced the painting; the great court yard is turned into a bowling-green, the fine chapel on the north ſide into a fives-court, and the great room over the gate into a cock-pit. At the diſſolution, the revenues of this monaſtery were valued at 1478l. 4s. 7d. The abbot was exempt from the archbiſhop's juriſdiction, and ſubject only to the pope. He wore the mitre and other ornaments of a biſhop; had a vote in parliament as a baron, and for many years, allowance of mintage and coinage of money, in right of his abbacy.

Within the wall which incloſed the monaſtery, upon a ſpot of ground formerly the cemetery or burying-place, near the ſouth-eaſt corner of St. Ethelbert's tower, the foundation of an handſome and commodious hoſpital was laid in

June

June 1791, for the relief of ſuch ſick and lame poor as may require the aid of advice or medicines, who are accommodated either as in-or out-patients, according to their neceſſities. For this laudable purpoſe 4496l. were ſubſcribed, of which ſum 4050l. were expended upon the building, excluſive of the furniture; however, the directors, with the ſurplus in hand, added to a voluntary annual ſubſcription of leſs than 400l. have furniſhed and opened it, for affording aſſiſtance to the afflicted to the full extent of the preſent reſources; which it is hoped will increaſe in that proportion, ſo as to anſwer fully the deſirable purpoſes of this truly uſeful and benevolent inſtitution.

At a ſmall diſtance eaſtward ſtands St. Martin's church, built of the ſame materials as the monaſtery.—This church, and another where the cathedral now ſtands, are ſuppoſed to have been built by the Chriſtians of the Roman ſoldiery, in the ſecond century, and at the time of Lucius, the firſt chriſtian king, who lived in 182; ſo that it is looked on as one of the oldeſt ſtructures of that kind, now in conſtant uſe, in the kingdom. The walls, thoſe of the chancel particularly, are entirely of Roman brick, and the whole building is the moſt ſimple that is poſſible.

But to return into the city, through St. George's gate. At a ſmall diſtance on the right is the pariſh church of St. George, the ſtair-caſe to the tower of which, in 1788, was perforated by an arch, to afford room for foot paſſengers when the city was new paved; a little lower, is the poſt-office, and adjoining to it an elegant public library, furniſhed with a moſt capital ſelection of literature; on the oppoſite ſide, is the gate-way of the White Friars. Farther on, on the right, are the ſhambles, which, till the year 1740, ſtood in the middle of the ſtreet; here alſo is a fiſh-market, lately eſtabliſhed, for the ſale of fiſh, toll free,

but

but it is ſeldom uſed for that purpoſe. Adjoining was a public engine for weighing loads of hay *; near this is the corn-market, with a granary over it; and a little beyond it another public library, containing a numerous collection of books. This part of the ſtreet had a middle row of conſiderable length, conſiſting of the ſhambles, a fine conduit or water houſe of ſtone, and the pariſh church of St. Andrew. The conduit was pulled down in 1754, and the church in 1763; a new church is built juſt by, which was opened for the performance of divine ſervice Dec. 26, 1773, and conſecrated the July following. The weſt end of St. Andrew's church ſtood fronting the high-ſtreet; on the ſouth-ſide of which is the church of St. Mary Bredman; about the middle, on the north-ſide is the town-hall, a handſome and lofty building, with a ſpacious gallery over the door, and a ſtair-caſe on each ſide. On the ſide walls hang ſome matchlocks, brown-bills, and other old weapons; but the upper end, where the court is kept, is furniſhed with pictures; a whole length of queen Anne being over the ſeat of the mayor, and ſeveral portraits on each ſide of it, of perſons who have been benefactors to the city. Behind the court is a Council Chamber, where the juſtices hold their monthly meetings, and tranſact other public buſineſs; over it are the archives, where, beſides the records and charters, the chamberlain keeps the ſtandards for weights and meaſures, with the books and accounts of the city buſineſs. In this hall, a court of conſcience for the recovery of ſmall debts is held every Thurſday; and a court of burghmote every fourth Tueſday, or every ſecond

* Amongſt the improvements made in conſequence of the new pavement, loads of hay and other commodities are now weighed by the more convenient and expeditious means of a weigh bridge, erected in 1788, without the walls of the city, between Burgate and that of St. George.

Tueſday if neceſſary; alſo the Court of Commiſſioners for paving, lighting and watching the city.—Canterbury being a county in itſelf, its magiſtrates have authority to determine all diſputes at law between the citizens, and to try for capital offences, committed within the city liberty, the mayor ſitting as judge, aſſiſted by the recorder, who pronounces the ſentences, (except the ſentence of death, which is paſſed by the mayor) and bench of aldermen above the chair, who are all juſtices of the peace.

Proceeding weſtward, on the left, is Jewry-lane, formerly inhabited by Jews, who had a ſchool or ſynagogue, till they were expelled the kingdom by Edward II. About thirty years ago, a fair moſaic pavement, of a carpet pattern, was diſcovered here, in digging a cellar, between three and four feet below the level of the ſtreet. The teſſelæ were of burnt earth, red, yellow, black, and white. A few paces farther brings us to King's or Eaſt bridge, with All Saints church. The way over this bridge, being very narrow, was widened in 1769, on which occaſion it was neceſſary to take down the ſteeple of the church, which ſtood far into the ſtreet. Upon the bridge is an hoſpital, founded and endowed by St. Thomas Becket, for the purpoſe of receiving, lodging, and ſuſtaining poor pilgrims, for one night only, if in health, with right of burial in Chriſt-church-yard for ſuch as ſhould happen to die within the hoſpital. It was under the direction of a maſter, and a vicar under him; had twelve beds, and an aged woman to look after and provide neceſſaries for the pilgrims. The preſent building, though ancient, has a decent hall and chapel, where twenty boys are inſtructed gratis in reading, writing, and arithmetic. The ſchoolmaſter has an apartment in the houſe, as have alſo ten poor perſons, who receive an annual ſtipend of 6l. each, and ten others, who are

not

not reſidents, have about 26s. a year from this foundation. The ſtreet from hence to Weſtgate takes its name from St. Peter's church, ſituate on the right, about the middle of its length; but before we come to it, is the way to the Black or Dominican friars monaſtery, and oppoſite, that which leads to the ruins of one of the order of St. Francis. Adjoining to the latter is Cogan's hoſpital, bequeathed in 1657, by John Cogan, D. D. for the habitation of ſix poor widows of clergymen, who have each an apartment, and endowed in 1696 with 10l. a year, by Dr. Aucher, prebendary of the cathedral, the archbiſhop's lands in Littlebourn, with which its firſt founder had endowed it, being reſumed at the reſtoration. Beyond St. Peter's church is the paſſage to two ſprings of mineral water, of different quality, though riſing within ſeven feet of each other. The waters have been preſcribed and taken with ſucceſs, from the firſt diſcovery of them in 1693, but were never ſo much in faſhion as to crowd the town with company. Almoſt oppoſite is the church of Holy Croſs; in the reign of Richard II. the church was over the weſt gate, but it was taken down by archbiſhop Sudbury, and erected where it now ſtands about the year 1381. Weſtgate and its bridge are the boundary of the city juriſdiction; on the left hand is a corn mill, part of the demeſnes of the archbiſhop, which ſtands on the foundation of one mentioned in Domeſday Book, then in the poſſeſſion of the canons of St. Gregory. In St. Dunſtan's ſtreet, without the gate, is the priſon for the eaſt part of Kent; not far from it the Jews, who reſide chiefly in this part of the ſuburbs, have a ſynagogue; and at the end is St. Dunſtan's church, a larger and fairer building than moſt in the city. In the family chancel of Roper, is preſerved a ſcull, ſaid to be that of the great Sir Thomas More; it is in a niche of the wall,

ſecured with an iron grate: though it is ſaid his favourite daughter, Margaret Roper, who lies here, deſired to be buried with it in her arms. The vault, being full, was cloſed up a few years ſince.

Returning through Weſtgate, over King's-bridge, and turning to the right up Lamb-lane, we preſently come to the City Workhouſe, formerly an hoſpital for poor prieſts, but in 1574, was granted by queen Elizabeth to the mayor and commonalty of the city, who made uſe of it for the maintenance and lodging of ſeveral poor boys, and made part of it a houſe of correction; the boys uſually attend the mayor, when he goes to church in his formalities. In 1728 an act of parliament was procured to erect it into a workhouſe, for maintaining and employing the poor of the city, under a preſident and guardians incorporated for that purpoſe. Continuing up Stour-ſtreet, on the left are Maynard's and Cotton's hoſpitals; the one founded by Mr. John Maynard in 1317, and the other by Leonard Cotton, Eſq; in 1605; for four brothers and ſix ſiſters, who have each 7l. a year and a houſe. At the end of Stour ſtreet is St. Mildred's church, at the weſt end of the ſouth iſle of which is a fair arch of Roman brick, and in the church-yard ſome viſible remains of the Roman wall. Paſſing through the poſtern, and turning to the left, we enter Wincheap, where are ſome alms-houſes, built by Mr. Harris in 1726, for five poor families. From hence entering the city again through Wincheap-gap, on the right we have a view of Dane John Hill and its public walks, and paſs over Chapel-yard, where formerly ſtood the church of St. Mary Caſtle, now the burying-place of three pariſhes in the city, which have no ground belonging to them, down Caſtle-ſtreet, and acroſs Watling-ſtreet to St. Margaret's church; in which is an eccleſiaſtical court, where the

the archbiſhop, archdeacon, and the archbiſhop's commiſſary hold their ſeveral viſitations; and alſo a court wherein cauſes of defamation, fornication, and other eccleſiaſtical diſputes are tried. Near the church is the old Fiſh-market, and at the corner of the ſtreet, one of the largeſt and moſt elegant aſſembly rooms, built by a private owner, in the kingdom. Croſſing High ſtreet, we enter Mercery-lane, in which was the Chequer-inn, made famous by Chaucer, which took up almoſt half the weſt-ſide of it, beſides reaching a conſiderable way down the high ſtreet; then leaving the Butter-market, on the right, we approach the cathedral precinct.—The building over the butter-market, uſed many years as a theatre, being conſidered as in a decaying ſtate, was pulled down in 1789, when it was propoſed to have removed the market into that part of Burgate where it might have gone through to the ſhambles, and have had one general market, continued from St. George's Street into Burgate Street; but the inhabitants around the preſent market conceiving they ſhould ſuſtain a partial injury in their property and trade by its removal, the intention was given up, and the preſent building erected, at the ſole coſt of the corporation.

But, before we proceed, it may be neceſſary to obſerve, with reſpect to the city in general, that it formerly had 17 churches within the walls, and three in the ſuburbs, though only 15 of them now remain. But the Jews, Preſbyterians, Quakers, Methodiſts, and Baptiſts, have each houſes of public worſhip. The markets are regularly and plentifully ſupplied with every neceſſary of life, and the ſhops filled not only with conveniencies, but luxuries of every kind. In 1774 an elegant concert room was erected by a ſubſcription of the citizens, which in 1789 was purchaſed by Mrs. Sarah Baker, and converted into a beautiful little theatre,

to ſupply the loſs of the old one heretofore over the Butter-market Her company, which is very reſpectable, perform here three or four times a week in the winter months, and generally the weeks of, and after, Canterbury races. The corporation of the city conſiſts of a mayor, recorder, 12 aldermen, chamberlain, town-clerk, 24 common-councilmen, and inferior officers. It ſends two members to parliament, who are elected by the freemen, of whom there are, reſident and non-reſident, upwards of 1600. An act of parliament for paving, lighting, and watching, was procured in 1787, by the operation of which the ancient city of Canterbury, within the walls, in the ſhort period of two years, has been entirely new paved, the carriage ways in all the principal ſtreets with Guernſey pebbles, and the footpaths, which are almoſt every where broad and commodious, with Yorkſhire ſquared pavement, defended with a ſtrong kirb of Scotch granate; the whole executed in a manner that cannot fail to be a laſting credit to the united exertions of the Commiſſioners and thoſe employed under them; ſo that it may with truth be aſſerted, that Canterbury, from being one of the worſt paved cities, is at this time not exceeded, if equalled, in pavement, by any city or town in the kingdom. The ſtreets now, inſtead of being dark and dirty, and incumbered with ſigns, bulks, poſts, ſpouts, and other encroachments and annoyances; are open and airy, kept clean, enlightened by a number of lamps, and conſtantly guarded at night by able watchmen; the ſhop-windows and houſes made to range as near as poſſible with each other, the water conveyed from the houſe-tops and offices under the pavement in channels and drains; and ſuch a ſpirit of emulation for improvement has gone forth among the inhabitants, that many of the old buildings have been, and are ſtill, wholly or in part taking down

down and rebuilding in a modern ſtyle*. Works which add dignity and reſpect to the city and citizens at large, yet it would be unjuſt in the writer of this, to with-hold the tribute of particular thanks to James Simmons, eſq. by whoſe perſevering and diſintereſted zeal, and unwearied efforts, in conjunction with his fellow-citizens, theſe public improvements originated, were carried on, and completed. And further, the citizens are not without hopes, from the active exertions of the ſame individual, of rendering their city of more importance in the ſcale of the empire than it has hitherto been, by effecting *a Canal Navigation* to the Sea, a ſurvey for that purpoſe having been made in 1790, by that able mechanic Mr. Robert Whitworth. The great utility of this plan, which appears to be very practicable, is ſo obvious, as not to need any pains to illuſtrate its various advantages; and from Canterbury the ſame communication will be attempted to the interior parts of the county, for the diſtance of 20 or 30 miles.

We now return to Chriſt church gate, an elegant Gothic ſtructure, built in the year 1517, as appears by a Latin inſcription in the cornice. On entering, our attention is attracted by the Oxford-ſteeple, a tower 130 feet high, at the ſouth-weſt corner of the body of the church, with four handſome pinnacles, very ſtrongly built, and buttreſſed from the ground to the top, in which is a fine peal of eight bells†, and a clock which ſtrikes the quarters on two of them, as it does the hours on one much larger than any of the peal, (weighing 7500 pounds,) which hangs above the leaden platform, in a frame of timber open on all ſides. As we proceed, the view finely opens, and diſplays the

* Theſe improvements have ſince been extended to the ſuburbs.

† The tenor of this peal being broke, was recaſt in 1778. The weight of the new bell is 33 cwt. which is 3cwt. leſs than the old one.

ſouth

ſouth ſide of the body, part of the weſtern croſs iſle, and that ſtately tower, called Bell-Harry ſteeple, whoſe height is 235 feet, which for the elegant proportions of the building itſelf, and of its ornaments, is perhaps the completeſt ſtructure of the kind any where to be ſeen. It was begun by prior Selling, and finiſhed by his ſucceſſor, Thomas Goldſtone, aſſiſted by archbiſhop Morton. On its top hangs a ſmall bell, called Bell-Harry, which is tolled every day for prayers, but never rung, except on the death of the king, queen, or archbiſhop. A little farther eaſtward, is the tower, called that of St. Peter and St. Paul till the ſhrine of St. Anſelm was placed in it, when it became his chapel. This, and one dedicated to St. Andrew, on the north ſide of the church, have been much more lofty than they are at preſent. They are looked upon as the oldeſt parts of the building. From the ſouth-weſt corner of St. Anſelm's chapel we paſs through the cemetery gate, which parted the burying ground of the laity from that of the monks, which brings to view the fine chapel of the Holy Trinity, built in a different ſtyle, but by no means inferior in beauty. This chapel contained the ſhrine of St Thomas Becket, and was called after his name, as was alſo the church till the diſſolution. Devotees to this ſaint came from all quarters, and offerings poured in ſo faſt, that his ſhrine grew as famous for its riches as its holineſs. Eraſmus, who viſited it, ſays, "a coffin of wood, which covered a coffin of gold, was drawn up by ropes and pullies, and then an invaluable treaſure was diſcovered; gold was the meaneſt thing to be ſeen there; all ſhone and glittered with the moſt precious jewels, of an extraordinary bigneſs; ſome were larger than the egg of a gooſe." At the eaſt end of this chapel, is another circular one, called Becket's crown, in which, it is ſaid, his

ſkull

ſkull was preſerved as a relic. This building was unfiniſhed at the diſſolution, when Henry VIII. put a ſtop to the works and oblations at once, ſeized on the treaſures and eſtates of the monaſtery, provided for the members of it as he pleaſed, and eſtabliſhed the cathedral on the new foundation of a dean, 12 prebendaries, ſix preachers, ſix minor canons, and other officers and ſervants. It now recovered its ancient name of Chriſt church; additions in honour of St. Thomas were no longer thought of, and his crown had but a ragged appearance till about 1748, when Capt. H. Pudner, of this city, gave 100l. towards completing it, which ſum brought it to its preſent condition. The north ſide of the church differs little from what we have been examining, but it is not ſo acceſſible; for here were the offices of the ancient monaſtery, ſome parts of which ſtill remain, converted into dwelling-houſes; here alſo are the library, the audit-room, the chapter-houſe and cloyſter, which to deſcribe would far exceed the limits of our plan; we therefore proceed to the Arundel ſteeple, at the north-weſt corner of the church. This tower appears to be in a ruinous ſtate, being ſo full of cracks as to require ſtrengthening with iron-work; it had formerly a ſpire, 100 feet high, on its top; but that being damaged in the great ſtorm in November 1703, it was taken down ſoon after. Its preſent height is 100 feet.

We now enter, by the porch at the foot of the Oxford ſteeple, into the body of the church, which in 1787 and 1788 was entirely new paved with plain Portland ſtone; it meaſures, from the weſt door to the choir ſteps, 178 feet; from north to ſouth, including the ſide iſles, 71 feet; and in height, to the vaulted roof, 80 feet. The fine arches over head, ſo moderately adorned with well proportioned ornaments; the lofty pillars, ſo well diſpoſed for diſtribu-

ting

ting that light which the windows admit in great plenty; and the agreeable length of the walk between them, augment the pleaſure, till we arrive at the flight of ſteps which lead up to the door of the choir, and give us a view of the rich ſcreen at the entrance, as well as of the croſs iles on each hand, and the dazzling height of the inſide of the noble tower called Bell Harry ſteeple. All theſe particulars, ſo finely adjuſted, can hardly fail of giving great pleaſure to thoſe who ſurvey them with any degree of attention*.

The fine font given by Dr. Warner, biſhop of Rocheſter, 1636, ſtood till 1787 on the north ſide of the middle iſle of the body, nearly oppoſite the entrance under the Oxford ſteeple, when it was removed into an octagon building at the end of the north croſs iſle of the choir, called Bell Jeſus, which the late Mr. Goſtling ſuppoſes to have been an ancient baptiſtry. This font in the time of Cromwell, was pulled down by the parliament ſoldiers; Mr. Somner bought and reſerved the pieces till the reſtoration, when he preſented them to the archbiſhop, who replaced it, and firſt baptized a daughter of its preſerver in it.

The choir is thought to be the moſt ſpacious of any in the kingdom, being 180 feet in length, from the weſt door to the altar, and 38 in breadth, between the two ſide doors. The ſtalls for the dean and prebendaries are ſix on each ſide of the entrance; they are of wainſcot, divided by neat fluted pillars and pilaſters, with capitals of the Corinthian order, ſupporting arched canopies, and a front elegantly carved

* The north, weſt, and ſouth windows, particularly the latter, which was wholly rebuilt in 1791, exhibit ſome pleaſing remains of ancient painted glaſs. The beautiful windows of the north tranſept, containing the figures of Becket, many ſaints, and the family of Edward IV. was deſtroyed in the laſt century by the fanaticiſm of Richard Culmer, commonly called Blue Dick, who is ſaid to have aſcended a ladder of ſixty ſteps for that purpoſe.

with

with crowns, ſceptres, mitres, and rich foliage, wi h ſuitable frieze and cornice. The wainſcotting on each ſide, as far as the archbiſhop's throne, is in the ſame taſte, though not quite ſo rich in its ornaments. In 1704, the old monkiſh ſtalls, which were in two rows on each ſide of the choir, were removed, and the preſent handſome ranges of ſeats erected in their ſtead; archbiſhop Teniſon, on this occaſion, gave the preſent throne. The whole is of wainſcot; the canopy and its ornaments raiſed very high on ſix fluted pillars of the Corinthian order, with proper impoſts. It is ſaid to have coſt 244l 8s. 2d. At the right hand of the throne is a ſeat or pew for the archdeacon. The altar-piece was deſigned by Sir James Burrough, Maſter of Caius college, Cambridge. It is alſo of the Corinthian order, very lofty, and well executed. The middle compartment till 1784 was covered with plain crimſon velvet, when the whole was removed, and the place ſupplied with large ſquares of plate glaſs; which, though it may not impreſs that ſolemnity which many think ought ever to accompany the adminiſtration of the ſacraments, yet has a very fine effect from the choir and body of the church, by opening to view the chapel of the Holy Trinity, and its beautiful windows of painted glaſs, behind the altar. A handſome wainſcotting is continued from the altar-piece to the two ſide doors of the choir, in a taſte deſigned to diſtinguiſh this part (the chancel or preſbyterium) from the reſt of the choir. From the altar-ail the pavement is of black and white marble, in a fancied pattern; at ſeven or eight feet diſtance is a noble flight of ſix ſteps, of veined white marble, reaching the whole breadth of the altar. Above theſe the pavement is continued near 20 feet, in a pattern ſuitable to that below them. The communion plate, of gilt ſilver, is very elegant. The organ formerly ſtood on the north-ſide of the choir,

choir, but it was taken down in 1783, and the next year an entire new one, which in harmonic power and ſweetneſs, as well as external appearance, has ſcarcely its equal, erected over the elegant ſcreen at the entrance. It is built in the gothic ſtyle, perfectly correſpondent to that part of the building which ſerves for its baſe. The muſical part of this inſtrument was executed by Mr. Green, of London, the joinery by Mr. Jeſſe White, of Canterbury. The middle ſpace of the choir is illuminated, during the winter months, by two braſs ſconces, of twenty-four lights each, as is the body by a number of glaſs lamps fixed againſt the pillars. Behind the altar is the beautiful chapel of the Holy Trinity, in the middle of which ſtood the ſhrine* of St. Thomas Becket. Part of the floor is curiouſly inlaid with moſaic work. It contains the throne, or epiſcopal chair, the ſeat of which is compoſed of three pieces of grey marble; alſo the monuments of Henry IV. and his queen, Edward the Black Prince,† cardinal Chattilon, archbiſhop

* Of which the following deſcription is given by Stow:—"This ſhrine "was builded about a man's height, all of ſtone, then upwards of timber "plain, within which was a cheſt of iron, containing the bones of Thomas "Becket, ſcull and all, with the wound of his death, and the piece cut "out of his ſcull laid in the ſame wound. The timber work of this ſhrine "on the outſide was covered with plates of gold, damaſked with gold wire, "which ground of gold was again covered with jewels of gold, as rings, 10 "or 12 cramped with gold wire into the ſaid ground of gold, many of "thoſe rings having ſtones in them, broches, images, angels, precious "ſtones, and great pearls; the ſpoil of which ſhrine in gold and precious "ſtones, filled two great cheſts, one of which ſix or ſeven ſtrong men could "do no more than convey out of the church at once; all which was taken "to the king's uſe, and the bones of St. Thomas, by command of the lord "Cromwell, were then and there burned to aſhes, in Sept. 1538, 30 "Henry VIII."

† His tomb is an elegant ſarcophagus of grey marble, on a baſe of open quaterfoils, on which are alternately his arms, England and France quarterly, with a file of three points, and his device, three oſtrich feathers, the quill

Courtney, who died in 1396; cardinal Pole, dean Wotton, and one more ancient, ſaid to be that of archbiſhop

quill end of each in a ſocket, acroſs which is a label with his motto, *ich diene*, ſuperſcribed with the words *houmount* and *ich diene*. His will directs twelve eſcutcheons of laton round his tomb, each a foot ſquare or wider, whereof ſix of his arms complete, and the other ſix of his badges of oſtrich feathers, and on each of the twelve inſcribed the word houmount. Only ſeven of theſe beautiful labels remain, two at the head, two on the north-ſide, and three on the ſouth-ſide. Upon the tomb he directed a table of laton gilt, of the ſame dimenſions with the tomb whereon was to be laid an image of laton, in relief, gilt, in memory of him, armed in a warlike manner, with his arms quartered, and the face uncovered, his helmet with the leopard under his head. His figure is of copper gilt; his face is whiſkered; his helmet pointed, adorned with a coronet of oak leaves once enriched with a kind of paſte or falſe ſtones, of which only the collets now remain; under his head a helmet ſurmounted by a leopard crowned, and having round his neck a label of three points; his gorget of mail; on his ſurcoat France and England quarterly, under a label of three points; the lappets of his ſurcoat are bound round with a girdle enamelled, ſtudded with leopard's faces in rounds, and faſtened by a lion paſſant guardant, and under this ſurcoat appears mail; his gauntlets are armed on the knuckles with iron ſpikes; his cuiſſes and greaves plated, the latter ſeamed like ſpatterdaſhes; his ſhoes, formed of braſs plates folded over each other, are remarkably long picked; his ſpurs have large rowels, and the ſtraps faſtened with roſes. At his feet is a lioneſs; by his ſide lies his ſword looſe, being, with the ſheath, all of ſolid copper, four feet long, ſtudded with lozenges, the hilt of wire work, ſet with an enamelled lion's head on a blue ground. This ſword had been hung to his girdle by an hook ſtill remaining thereon. The wooden embattled canopy above was painted with a figure of our Saviour, now defaced, and the four Evangeliſts with their ſymbols in ſmall compartments at the corners. Over the canopy hang the helmet and creſt, a ſurcoat of velvet, quilted with fine cotton, and curiouſly finiſhed and gilt, and the ſcabbard of his dagger or ſword (the weapon itſelf being taken away by Oliver Cromwell) embroidered with the arms of England and France quarterly, and the gauntlets. All theſe are ſaid to be the identical ones he wore. His ſhield hangs on a pillar near the head of the tomb, and has had handles. As the choir and eaſt part of the church are built over vaults, the bodies could not be interred in vaults, except down in the un-

Theobald, who died in 1160; but this is doubtful. In the north iſle are the monuments of archbiſhops Chicheley and Bourchier; and in the ſouth, thoſe of archbiſhops Walter, who died in 1205; Reynolds in 1327; Kemp, Stratford in 1348; and Sudbury. The croſs ile contains the chapel of St. Anſelm, as it did alſo his tomb, of which there are now no remains; but thoſe of archbiſhops Mepham* and Bradwardin who died in 1349, are ſtill in being. The mural monuments on the north-ſide of the body are for Thomas Sturman, auditor of this church; Orlando Gibbons, organiſt to king Charles I. Adrian Seravia, John Turner, and Richard Colf, prebendaries; and ſir John Boys, founder of Jeſus Hoſpital. On the ſouth-ſide are thoſe of John Porter, John Simpſon, and Richard Cope Hopton, eſqrs. and Berkeley. Beſides theſe, there were three ancient table tombs, ſaid to be of the arch-

dercroft, and therefore it is probable are lodged in the ſtone cheſts. His will directs, that his tomb be of marble, of good maſonry, and placed where his body was to lye, before the altar at Canterbury, ſo that the feet end of it be ten feet diſtant from the altar. The epitaph, inlaid in braſs, is in old French, much in the ſtyle and ſpirit of the Romant of the Roſe and other rhymes of that age, and the beginning of it exactly reſembles that of John Warren ſeventh earl of Surry, given by ſir W. Dugdale, from Lewes abbey regiſter. It is expreſsly ordered in his will to be put on the moſt viſible part of the tomb, at the diſcretion of his executors." As the copies of it in Weever, Sandford, Batteley, and Dart, do not agree, Mr. Gough, in Sepulc. Mon. p. 137, has printed one faithfully tranſcribed from the original, by the late W. Jackſon, eſq. of Canterbury.

* Mepham died in 1333. His tomb is in an embattled receſs or chapel of five pointed arches, four of whoſe ſpandrils have in trefoils the four Evangeliſts. The columns are cluſtered, and the interſtices guarded by iron gratings, and the whole makes part of an elegant ſtone ſcreen between this tomb and St. Anſelm's chapel.

biſhops

biſhops Iſlip* and Wittleſey, and a Dr. Lovelace; alſo a ſmall chapel, which contained two handſome monuments of the Nevils†. The north croſs, or martyrdom, is the place where Becket was murdered at the altar of St. Benedict, on the 29th of December 1170. Here are the monuments of archbiſhops Peckham‡ and Warham, doctors Chapman, Fotherby, and Mr. Clerke; alſo the fine chapel of the Virgin Mary, which contains thoſe of the deans Rogers, Fotherby, Bargrave, Boys, and Turner. In the ſouth croſs are thoſe of Dr. and Mrs. Holcombe, Dr. John Batteley, Mrs. Jane Hardres, and Mr. Herbert Randolph. On the eaſt ſide is the chapel of St. Michael, where are the monuments of archbiſhop Langton who died in 1228, remarkable for its elegant ſhape; earl of Somerſet and his lady, and the duke of Clarence, her ſecond huſband; Col. William Prude, killed at the ſiege of Maeſtricht in 1632;

* Iſlip is ſaid to be the firſt archbiſhop who had an epitaph upon his tomb in the whole church of Canterbury. He died in 1366; Wittleſey, his ſucceſſor, in 1374.

† When the new pavement began in 1787, this chapel was pulled down, and its monuments placed in the chapel of the Virgin Mary; at which time the font, the three ancient tombs, and all the graveſtones, were removed from the body.

‡ Archbiſhop Peckham died in 1292. Mr. Gough ſays, this monument "is another inſtance of correſpondence in ſtyle with thoſe of Edmund "Crouchback and Valence. The altar-tomb is adorned with the images "of nine biſhops, in their habits, with croſiers and mitres, and the pillars "of the arch with eight more; the arch is radiated like that of Valence, "and the moulding both of arch and pediment foliaged, and in the pedi-"ment a rich roſe in ſexfoil and circle. The figure of the archbiſhop is "of oak, *in pontificalibus*, on a ſlab of oak, very ſound, though almoſt "500 years old, if originally made for this tomb, which, ſays Mr. Goſt-"ling, ſome have doubted. I know not on what authority, ſince other "oak figures occur in churches, and thoſe of ſimple knights would ſcarce "be received." Sepulc. Mon. p. 67.

ſir Tho. Thornhurſt, killed at the iſle of Rhee in 1627; Lady Thornhurſt; dame Dorothy Thornhurſt; Mrs. Ann Milles; ſir George Rooke; ſir James Hales; and brigadier Francis Godfrey. In the undercroft are thoſe of archbiſhop Morton, Iſabella counteſs of Athol,* and lady Mohun who died in 1395.

We do not here attempt to deſcribe the various beauties of theſe venerable and magnificent memorials of the deceaſed, nor the very rich, but not profuſe, ornaments, which adorn this noble ſtructure, as we would not wiſh to anticipate the pleaſure a traveller may receive in viewing them. Perſons always attend, to give information in theſe particulars; but as that may not be ſatisfactory to an inquiſitive mind, we ſhall refer him to the elaborate treatiſe of Mr. Somner, or to a little work, entitled '*A Walk in and about the City of Canterbury*,' publiſhed in 1774, by a gentleman † lately deceaſed, who was no leſs eſteemed for his extenſive knowledge of antiquity, than for his affable and ready communications to every enquirer into the works of nature or art. Many curious particulars relating to its monuments, may be ſeen in Gough's Sepulc. Mon. and Mr. Groſe, Antiq. vol. III. publiſhed in 1784 a more picturesque view of this cathedral than any which had before been taken.

* Her figure is very delicate, dreſſed in a mantle and petticoat, her head finely plaited and veiled, ſupported by angels, her hands joined, a dog at her feet, the face of the arch annulated, in the centre above a roſe. She died in 1258.

† The Rev. William Goſtling, a native of Canterbury, and minor canon of the cathedral. A ſecond edition, much enlarged, was publiſhed by ſubſcription in 1777, a few months after the death of the ingenious and benevolent author; and ſince, in 1779, a third edition, printed in a ſize fit for the pocket.

In

In the Mint-yard, within the precincts of this church, is a public grammar ſchool, founded by Henry VIII. wherein 50 boys are inſtructed, with a quarterly allowance for the purchaſe of books. It is under the direction of two maſters. The ſchool-houſe was formerly the chapel of the almonry, built by Henry Eaſtry, prior in 1318.

A Bank, under the firm of Gipps, Simmons and Gipps, was opened at Canterbury in 1788; and in 1791 two others, under the firms of Baldock, Rigden, Halford and Peirce—Baker, Denne, Kingsford, Wigzel and Kingsford.

From Canterbury the road to Margate lies through Northgate, and at a little diſtance from the end of the ſtreet, we have a full view, on the left, of the church and village of Hackington, with the fine new ſeat of ſir Edward Hales, bart. extending itſelf 538 feet in front, with a ſpacious lawn before it, and the wings and back part encompaſſed with beautiful plantations*. At this place Lora, counteſs of Leiceſter, a moſt reſpectable lady of her age, renouncing the pleaſures of the world, ſecluded herſelf from all ſociety to ſerve God alone. The church contains a fine monument for ſir Roger Manwood, knt. chief baron of the exchequer in the reign of queen Elizabeth, to whoſe bounty as well as that of his ſon ſir Peter, the poor inhabitants are greatly indebted for the foundation and endowment of ſix almshouſes.—In this pariſh, on a branch of the Stour, an extenſive mill for ſpinning cotton

* Of the ſeat built at Tunſtall by an anceſtor—Philipot obſerves—"Sir E. H. lately hath begun to erect upon the ancient foundation, a fabrick of that ſtupendous magnificence, that it at once obliges the eye to admiration and delight." Villar. Cantian. p. 343. And remarks Fuller, (in Worthies abridged, p. 394) "As for buildings in Kent—the fair manſion houſe of ſir Edward Hales, baronet, when finiſhed, will carry away the credit from all the buildings in the county."

yarn, was erected in 1791 by Mr. John Callaway, inventor of the favourite article of female dreſs, called Canterbury muſlin; which it is hoped will continue to reward the induſtry as well as ingenuity of the proprietor. The proceſs is effected by curious machinery, attended, under the direction of an overſeer, by a number of children, who at an early age are trained up in the habits of uſeful employment.

Two miles from Canterbury is Sturry, where we croſs the river Stour, which in this part is ſometimes rendered dangerous by floods; but a large ſum of money was raiſed by ſubſcription to build a ſubſtantial bridge over it; the firſt ſtone was laid on the 4th of July, 1776, and finiſhed ſoon afterwards. About a quarter of a mile to the right, is Fordwich, which, though it has the appearance only of a mean village, is incorporated by the name of the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the town of Fordwich, is a member of the town and port of Sandwich, and enjoys the ſame privileges as the cinque ports. A manufactory of ſoap, of conſiderable extent, was eſtabliſhed here ſome few years ſince. It is ſituate on the Stour, which is navigable for ſmall veſſels to the town; though there is reaſon to think the ſea was once much nearer; and very probably the Portus Trutulenſis was that part of this large haven, where the Stour entered it, and derives its name from thoſe excellent trouts, for which this place yet continues famous. The Stour, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, was made navigable as high as Canterbury. In 1792 a plan, and eſtimate of the expence of a navigation from thence to that city were publiſhed, but not meeting with ſupport neceſſary to carry it into execution, the ſcheme dropped; and Canterbury, though poſſeſſing ſuch great natural advantages for an inland navigation immediately from the ſea, yet remains

mains one of the laſt cities in this kingdom deprived of ſo deſirable a commercial convenience. In ancient times there appear to be two rivers of this name, which are ſuppoſed to have fallen into the Wantſum, at Stourmouth. There are two rivers ſtill, one the Greater, the other the Leſſer Stour, and both, as far as we can judge, were formerly navigable, but never as a joint ſtream, the former falling into the Wantſum at Stourmouth, and the latter at ſome diſtance from it. In reality there have been great and manifeſt changes in the face of the country, and the courſe of the rivers, in this part of Kent; but however different their ſituation from what they are at preſent, we have no authority to ſuppoſe that either of theſe rivers ever admitted veſſels of any ſize, or communicated with the ſea than by the arm of it, called the Wantſum.

Near ſix miles from Canterbury is Upſtreet, from whence we deſcend into the marſhes, formerly covered by the Wantſum, the arm of the ſea which ſeparated Thanet from the main land of Kent, now contracted to a ditch, and arrive at Sarr, another member of the port of Sandwich. This place was once in a flouriſhing condition, lying in the bay of Rutupium, and conſequently a port; of which there is not only credible tradition, authenticated in the laſt age from the mouths of competent witneſſes, who had themſelves ſeen ſmall boats, and even barks of a tolerable ſize paſs quite through to the north mouth; but both here and at other places in Thanet, are viſible marks remaining, of the little creeks and havens, in which veſſels formerly lay; and their charters prove this beyond the power of doubting, as to its certainty. Three miles to the left, is Reculver, the Regulbium of the Romans, ſituated on a riſing ground on the weſt-ſide of the Yenlade, (though it ſeems to have ſtood originally in an iſland, formed by that river)

river) and close by the sea shore. It is at present joined to Kent, without any sign of its having ever been separated, and is divided from Thanet only by a little brook, (the Yenlade) which falls into the sea at North Mouth. Severus, emperor of Rome, is said to have built a castle at Reculver, like that of Richborough. Great quantities of Roman and Saxon coins, urns, and other curiosities have been found by the falling of the cliff. Ethelbert, king of Kent, built a palace, and resided there, as did many of his successors; and Bassa, an English Saxon lord, founded a rich abbey in 650; but there are now scarce the least remains of either. The present church is very ancient; the arches and pillars of the choir are round; in it is this epitaph to Ralph Brooke, Camden's adversary, under his figure in brass in a tabard;

Here under quit of worldly miseries
Ralph Brooke, esq. late Yorke herald lies.
Fifteenth of October he was last alive,
One thousand sixe hundred twenty and five:
Seaventy-three yeares bore he fortune's harmes,
And forty-five an officer of armes:
He married Thomasin daughter of Michael
Cob of Kent
Sergiant at armes, by who two daughters God
him lent,
Survyvyng Mary, William Dicken's wife,
Thomasin John Ectoris; happy be their life.

And an inscription commemorating king Ethelbert, to whom Austin first preached the gospel, and who is there said to have been murdered by the Danes in 616, though he died a natural death. The west door, in its primitive state, was very noble, and is still a curious remain of Saxon architecture; over it are two square towers, surmounted by

lofty

lofty ſpires, known by the name of the Two Siſters, which are very uſeful to mariners navigating this part of the coaſt of Kent. The village is now reduced to about a dozen houſes.

The Iſle of Thanet, which we enter at Sarr, is celebrated for being the door through which arts, ſcience, and divine knowledge came into this happy iſland. The Britons called it Richborough iſle, from its vicinity to the city of that name. The Saxons denominated it Thanet, from a word in their language which ſignifies *fire*; conjectured to have been ſo named from the many beacons erected in it, to give warning againſt the common enemy. The extent of the iſland is about eleven miles from eaſt to weſt, and nine from north to ſouth. It contains ten pariſhes, and had formerly as many churches, though now only ſeven remain. The ſoil in general is very fertile, and through the good management of its occupiers, produces ſuch crops of grain, in favourable ſeaſons, as are ſcarcely to be equalled, cultivated in every part with corn or garden ſtuff, but contains little wood—" Nor muſt I forget (ſays Camden) what redounds to the eſpecial praiſe of the inhabitants, particularly of thoſe who live near the ports of Margate, Ramſgate and Broadſtairs. They are exceſſively induſtrious, getting their living like amphibious animals both by ſea and land, making the moſt of both elements, being both fiſhermen and ploughmen, farmers and ſailors; the ſame perſons that guide the plough in the field, ſteering the helm at ſea. In the different ſeaſons of the year they make nets, catch cod, herrings, mackrel, &c. make trading voyages, manure their land, plough, ſow, harrow, reap, and ſtore their corn, expert in both profeſſions, and ſo carrying on the round of labour. As ſhipwrecks are very frequent here, thoſe dangerous ſhoals and ſhelves called

the

the Godwyn, the Brakes, the Fourfoote, the Whitdick, &c. lying off this coaſt, they are very active in recovering loſt goods."

To the left of the road, ten miles from Canterbury, is the pleaſant and genteel village of St. Nicholas. The church is a fair handſome building, but contains no monuments prior to the year 1500. About the ſame diſtance to the right, is the ſmall town of Monkton, or Monktown, ſo called from being the property of the monks, who uſually reſided here. In the church, which appears to have been larger than at preſent, are collegiate ſtalls, and the heads of ſeveral priors in the remains of painted glaſs in the windows. About thirteen miles from Canterbury, on the right, is Cleve, a handſome ſeat, the property of Joſias Fuller Farrer, eſq; which commands a fine view of the ocean, and of the adjacent country. A quarter of a mile to the right of Cleve, is Mount Pleaſant, a public-houſe, built on an eminence, and much admired for its beautiful and extenſive proſpects. Half a mile from hence, near the marſhes, is the ancient, but ſmall town of Minſter. Domneva, daughter of Ercombert, king of Kent, built and founded an abbey at this place, about the year 670, and furniſhed it with veiled virgins, to the number of ſeventy: herſelf becoming the firſt abbeſs. Mildred, her daughter, ſucceeded her, and ſo far excelled her mother in piety, that ſhe was canonized a ſaint, and the nunnery ever after was called by her name. It was deſtroyed by the Danes about the year 990. The church is the handſomeſt, though moſt ancient, ſtructure in the iſland; it conſiſts of three iles, and has eighteen collegiate ſtalls in the choir. On the floor, and in the church porch, are ſeveral large, flat grave-ſtones, which are very ancient. In the laſt century, a pot of Roman ſilver coins was plowed up near

Minſter;

Minſter; they were chiefly of Lucius Aurelius Verus. On the left is Birchington, a member of the town and port of Dover. The church is a neat building, and contains ſeveral ancient and modern monuments of the Queke and Criſpe families, who reſided at the ancient manſion in this pariſh, called Quekes, or Quex. At this houſe king William III. uſed to reſide, till the winds favoured his embarking for Holland. A room, ſaid to be the bed-chamber of this royal gueſt, is ſtill ſhewn, together with an adjacent encloſure, in which his guards encamped. We next paſs by the poor remains of the chapel of Wood, about fifteen miles from Canterbury. It is a limb of the town and port of Dover, and is ſuppoſed to take its name from its ancient ſylvan ſituation. Between the cliff and this chapel is Dandelion, the ſeat of the very ancient family of Dent-de-Lion, which may be traced from Edward I. through many generations; ſome of this family lie in Margate church. This houſe has been very ſtrong, and a good defence againſt bows and arrows, as appears from its venerable remains, which are a gate-houſe, built with bricks and flints, in ſeparate layers; over the gate are the arms of that ancient family. Dandelion of late years has been much reſorted to as a public place of entertainment by the company who viſit Margate in the ſummer months, to which its delightful ſituation ſeems not a little to contribute; and ſo extenſive are its accommodations, that breakfaſt for 700 perſons has been diſpenſed in one day. Near this place, in the year 1724, were found, in digging a way to the ſea, about two feet under the ſurface, twenty-ſeven inſtruments made of bell-metal, of various lengths and breadths, ſome about ſeven inches long and two broad, with a hollow at one end for a wooden haft; they are ſuppoſed to have been chizzels uſed by the Roman ſoldiers.

STAGE

STAGE VI.

Deſcription of Margate.—Drapers.—Hackindown Banks.—King's Gate.—North Foreland.—Broadſtairs.—Goodwin Sands.—St. Peter's.—Ramſgate.—Ebbsfleet.—Stonar.—Richborough.—SANDWICH.

MARGATE, or St. John's, is ſituated on the north ſide of the iſland, within a ſmall bay in the breach of the cliff, where is a gate to the ſea, from whence it has its name; it is 73 miles from London, and about 17 from Canterbury. In all matters of civil juriſdiction Margate is ſubject to the mayor of Dover, whoſe deputy reſides here, and of which town and port it is a member. The principal ſtreet is near a mile in length, and built on an eaſy aſcent, by which means the upper part is clean and dry, and the lower end much more ſo than formerly; a conſiderable ſum of money having been lately expended in drains for that purpoſe. The harbour is pleaſant, but not greatly frequented, for want of a ſufficient depth of water to keep veſſels of burden afloat; nevertheleſs, great quantities of corn, and all kinds of grain, are ſhipped here for London. The pier of wood carried out to the eaſtward, in a circular form for the ſecurity of ſhipping, was built where nature, by a cove in the cliff, ſeemed to direct, and was very ancient; as we find it in a ruinous ſtate in the reign of Henry VIII. and in that of Elizabeth, certain rates on corn, &c. impoſed for keeping it in repair; notwithſtanding it continued in an indifferent ſtate till the year 1724, when an act of parliament was granted, for empowering the inhabitants to collect ſun-

dry

dry duties on all ſhips trading to and from it, and wardens were alſo inveſted with proper authority to receive and expend the money; and by another act of 27 George III. theſe powers were enlarged, in order to extend and rebuild the pier in a more ſubſtantial manner with ſtone; alſo to light, cleanſe, and new pave the ſtreets; which powers have ſince been carried into effect, to the great improvement of the town and its harbour. Though Margate, in ſummer, is a pleaſant and agreeable ſituation, yet what has given it ſo great an eclat in the *beau monde*, it is conveniency for bathing; the ſhore being level and covered with fine ſand, is extremely well adapted for that purpoſe. On the wharf are ſeveral bathing-rooms, which are large and convenient. Hither the company reſort to drink the water, and from thence, in turns, they enter the machines, which are driven out into the ſea, often to the diſtance of two or three hundred yards, under the conduct of careful guides. There is a door at the back of the machine, by which the bathers deſcend into the water, by means of a ladder, and an umbrella of canvas is let down, which conceals them from public view. There are often thirty or more of theſe machines employed till near the time of high water. Mr. Benj. Beale, a Quaker, was the inventor of them in 1753. Their ſtructure is ſimple, but quite convenient; and by means of the umbrella, the pleaſures of bathing may be enjoyed in ſo private a manner, as to be conſiſtent with the ſtricteſt delicacy. Since Margate has been ſo much frequented by perſons of conſequence, many conſiderable additions and improvements have been made to the town. Among them a ſquare of very handſome houſes, built by perſons of fortune for their own uſe, with ſeveral others for the reception of the nobility and gentry. It is paved after the ſame manner as the ſtreets in London. On one ſide of

it is a noble and commodious aſſembly-room, finiſhed with great elegance and taſte, and ſuppoſed to be one of the largeſt buildings of the kind, which commands a delightful view of the ſea. It is eighty-ſeven feet in length, and forty-three in breadth, of a fine height, and richly ornamented. Adjoining to this are apartments for tea and cards, which are ſpacious and perfectly convenient. Over theſe is a flight of bedchambers, neatly furniſhed, for the accommodation of ſuch perſons as are not provided with other lodgings at their firſt coming. The ground floor conſiſts of a billiard-room, and a large apartment for the uſe of public entertainments, which belongs to, and communicates with the Hotel, and of a large piazza, which extends the whole length of the building. The number of ſubſcribers to theſe rooms often amount to one thouſand in a ſeaſon. The public amuſements are regularly conducted by Mr. Le Bas, maſter of the ceremonies. On the eaſt ſide of the ſquare are the public libraries, furniſhed and ornamented in a ſtyle ſuperior perhaps to any others of the kind in the kingdom, and near them many elegant buildings are continually riſing into notice; but it is to be lamented not in that uniform and regular order which the ſituation ſo eminently demands. A new theatre was built here in 1786, and the following year it was ſanctioned by a royal patent. The performances are four times a week Beſides the tavern in the ſquare, the New Inn, kept by Mitchener, near the water-ſide, is much frequented as a good inn, tavern and hotel, which has a good billiard-table, and coffee-room enjoying a moſt extenſive weſtern proſpect of the ſea and adjoining coaſts. Mitchener has alſo erected two warm ſalt-water baths on a moſt excellent conſtruction, which are very elegant, and built at a great expence; they are cleared in a few minutes, and may be brought to any degree

degree of temperature required, with the utmoſt eaſe. And their uſe has been attended with ſingularly good effects. There are many good and ſome elegant lodging houſes, beſides thoſe in the ſquare, which have been built of late years expreſsly for that purpoſe. Boarding-houſes are likewiſe kept in a decent, reputable manner, for the convenience of ſmall families, or ſingle perſons. Several phyſicians of eminence reſide at Margate all the year. As to the efficacy of ſea-bathing, we can only ſay, that in all caſes where bathing can be of ſervice, this muſt be, at leaſt, equal to any other; and in all cutaneous diſorders, or where the complaints are external, greatly ſuperior. After bathing it is cuſtomary to walk. The places moſt frequented for this purpoſe are, the ſquare, the fort, Hooper's Hill, where there is an horizontal windmill, of a curious conſtruction, for grinding corn; and the rope-walk; though when the tide is ebbed, the company go often on the ſands, to collect ſhells, pebbles, ſea-weeds, &c. many of which are to be met with in and about Margate. The ſands extend for ſome miles along the ſhore, quite ſmooth and dry at low water, and may be paſſed, with ſafety, ſix hours in the day. The ocean on one hand, and the caverns and grottos worn in the high chalky cliff, on the other, form a ſcene together moſt pleaſingly romantic. In fine weather, parties frequently go off to ſea for the diverſion of fiſhing, or to viſit the ſhips which lie at anchor in the roads. When the weather is windy or wet, the circulating libraries, and toy-ſhops furniſh amuſement for the company within doors. The poſt comes in from and returns to London every day, during the ſeaſon, by an order from the general poſt-office, without any additional expence to the company. Machines and diligences run every day to Canterbury, to meet the coaches which come in there from London, and

return with paſſengers to Margate the ſame evening. In 1777, a handſome and convenient market-place was built, and a charter obtained for holding a market weekly on Wedneſday and Saturday. Proviſions in general are good, and moderately cheap. Large quantities of fiſh are taken, the fineſt of which bear a good price, the reſt are ſold reaſonably. Wines, brandy, &c. are cheap and good; complaints having been formerly made with reſpect to the firſt of theſe articles, no expence has been ſpared to prevent them in future. Margate is now as well ſupplied with ſhops as moſt other public places, and there are many very reputable tradeſmen in all branches of buſineſs. The various articles of trade are moſtly furniſhed by a ready and quick communication with London, by the hoys. Were it not for the aſſiſtance of theſe veſſels, it would be almoſt impoſſible for Margate and the country round to furniſh entertainment for the vaſt numbers of people who reſort thither. They are ſloops of 80 or 100 tons burden, ſome of which ſail regularly in alternate weeks, and others occaſionally. Their ſtation in the Thames is at Wool-quay, near the Cuſtom-houſe. They uſually ſail from London on Wedneſday or Thurſday, and from Margate on Friday or Saturday. Paſſengers (of whom there are ſometimes 60 or 70) pay only 2s. 6d. for themſelves; and the freight of baggage, unleſs very bulky, does not much exceed ſixpence per hundred weight. Yachts alſo have been fitted up in a neat and commodious manner, for the conveyance of paſſengers, and paſſage boats are kept ready for ſea, which ſail occaſionally to Oſtend or other parts on the continent. The general price of the paſſage is 2s. 6d. for each perſon, or the beſt cabin may be hired on reaſonable terms; and is capable of bringing down a very large family or party of company, with all their ſervants and baggage.

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The paſſage is often made in eight or ten hours, and at other times in two or three days, as the wind and tide happen to ſuit. The beſt wind down is W. N. W. and the beſt up E. S. E. The hoy, like the grave, confounds all diſtinctions; high and low, rich and poor, ſick and ſound, are indiſcriminately blended together; it can therefore be no wonder, if the humours of ſuch a motley crew, of all ages, tempers, and diſpoſitions, ſhould now and then ſtrike out ſuch diverting ſcenes as muſt neceſſarily baffle the poſſibility of deſcription. Upon the whole, the paſſage is cheap, and, with a fair wind and good weather, extremely pleaſant and agreeable; but it is not to be recommended to ladies of great delicacy. To take away every apprehenſion of danger, it may be ſufficient to ſay, that it is now more than 150 years ſince a hoy from this place was loſt. The maſters are decent, careful men, and allow of no impropriety of behaviour, which they can prevent; the buſineſs they tranſact is incredible. The church at Margate is dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt, which was the ancient name of the pariſh. It was formerly a chapel to Minſter, and is ſuppoſed to have been built about the year 1050, and made parochial ſince 1290; in it are ſeveral ancient monuments. A bank has been opened at Margate ſome years, by Cobb and Son. Here are four good boarding ſchools, two for young ladies and two for young gentlemen. A charity ſchool, for the education of 40 boys and 40 girls, was erected here in 1788, which is ſupported by voluntary contribution.

At Drapers, in the neighbourhood, is an hoſpital, founded by Michael Yeakley, of the pariſh of St. John. It was built in 1709, and conſiſts of ten dwelling houſes; one of which is appropriated for an overſeer, and the others for poor men and women of the adjoining pariſhes. They are

allowed coals, and enjoy a weekly ſtipend. This inſtitution being entirely calculated for the relief of indigence, not for the encouragement of idleneſs, the founder, in his will, has ſpecified the qualifications of ſuch as are to be admitted; they muſt be induſtrious, and of a meek, humble, and quiet ſpirit. The ſtipend given by the founder, of late years, being found inadequate to the ſupport of the poor members, an annual ſubſcription has been promoted among the company, which has added conſiderably to their convenience and comfort.

To the left from Margate, between Northdown and King's Gate, are Hackendown Banks; two tumuli or barrows of earth, which mark the ſpot whereon a bloody battle was fought between the Danes and Saxons, in 853. The concurrent teſtimony of hiſtory, long tradition, the etymology of the word, (field of battle axes,) and more particularly, the urns and bones found buried in them, leave little room to queſtion the truth of this action. One of theſe banks was opened on the 23d of May 1743, by Mr. Thomas Read, owner of the lands, in the preſence of many hundred people. A little below the ſurface were found ſeveral graves, cut out of the ſolid chalk, and covered with flat ſtones; they were not more than three feet in length, into which the bodies had been thruſt, bent almoſt double. Several urns made of coarſe earthen ware, capable of containing about two or three quarts each, had been buried with them, which crumbled into duſt on being expoſed to the air. Aſhes and charcoal were found in them. Many of the bones were large, but not gigantic, and for the moſt part perfectly ſound. In June 1765, the ſmaller tumulus was opened, by order of the late Henry lord Holland, who had then purchaſed the lands. The appearances were much like the former, with this exception only, that no

urns

urns were found. The beſt hiſtorians of thoſe times inform us, that the battle was fought ſo near the ſea, that great numbers were puſhed over the cliff during the action; and it ſeems probable, that moſt of the ſlain were thrown over afterwards, as no other remains of bodies have ever been found near the place. To perpetuate the memory of this action, lord Holland has erected a monument, with a proper inſcription, on the larger of theſe banks, in a ſtyle of antiquity. At a ſmall diſtance from hence, is a breach in the cliff, formerly called Bartholomew's Gate, from a tradition, that it was finiſhed on the feſtival of that ſaint, but now King's Gate; which name, as appears by an inſcription over the portal, it received by order of King Charles II. who landed here, with the Duke of York, in his paſſage from Dover to London, on the 30th of June, 1683. At this place, ſituated on a ſmall but pleaſant bay, ſtands the delightful ſeat of the late lord Holland, now the property of the executors of the late T. Powell, eſq; built on a very different plan from any other houſe in the kingdom; the whole being intended (by its architect, ſir Thomas Wynn*) to reſemble an Italian villa; but more particularly that of Tully's Formian villa on the coaſt of the bay of Baiæ, near the city of Puzzolo, one of the moſt celebrated in the Roman ſtate, upon the eve of the Auguſtan age, when all the polite arts were at the zenith of their glory. The ſaloon of Neptune, and ſome other of the apartments are very fine. On the front of the houſe, towards the ſea, is a noble portico of the Doric order. The wings are faced with flint, of curious workmanſhip. Over each of the gateways that lead to them is a large antique baſſo relievo, of white marble; one of which is ſuppoſed to be an ovation

* Since created Lord Newborough in Ireland.

of

of Marcus Aurelius; and the other, though with no great certainty, to relate to the ſtory of Ceres and Proſerpine. The back front conſiſts of ſeveral buildings, which exactly anſwer to each other on the oppoſite ſides of the garden. The whole is connected with ſurprizing convenience. Here are likewiſe a great number of antique marble columns, ſtatues, buſtos, vaſes, &c. purchaſed in Italy at a very conſiderable expence. The curious ornaments of the ceiling in the great ſaloon were painted by Mr. Hakewell, junior, in Broad-ſtreet, Soho-ſquare. The beautiful columns of Scagliola, in imitation of porphyry, were executed by Meſſ. Bartoli and Richter, of Great Newport-ſtreet, London, who afterwards raiſed thoſe of the Pantheon. The gardens are ſmall but neat. At the upper end of the long walk, leading to the convent, is a beautiful column of black Kilkenny marble, raiſed to the memory of the late counteſs of Hillſborough, daughter to the Earl of Kildare, and called Counteſs Pillar, with this inſcription,

This Pillar
Is erected to the Honour of
Margaret of Kildare
Counteſs of Hillſborough
And alas! in memory too
of that moſt amiable Woman
Who died at Naples 1767.

Nor is there greater ſingularity in the houſe, than in the ſeveral building erected on the adjacent grounds; which are for the moſt part intended to repreſent ruinated edifices of antiquity. The deſign never fails to excite the wonder and frequently the cenſure of the ſpectators. Though we may venture perhaps to aſſert that the latter is not ſo well founded as is generally imagined. To decide the point of ſuperior taſte between theſe and the ſtructures which gene-

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rally adorn the gardens of our nobility, may be no eaſy matter; and Lord Holland's were certainly leſs expenſive, and more uſeful than moſt others. The materials are only flint and chalk, both of them on the ſpot, and to be had at no other expence than that of carriage; and the moſt conſiderable buildings, as the Convent, Caſtle, and Beadhouſe, contributed at once to the advantage and entertainment of their proprietor. If you are going from the pariſh church to Kingſgate, you meet firſt with the Convent, deſigned to repreſent the remains of one of thoſe ancient monaſteries formerly ſo numerous in this kingdom. It conſiſts of a noble gateway and porter's lodge, divided into two ſmall and one very handſome apartment. The adjoining cloiſter contains five cells inhabited by ſeveral poor and induſtrious families. An ancient monument appears amidſt the ruins of the chapel, on which reſt two ſtone figures, whom you may imagine to have been two of the old reguli of the kingdom of Kent. The monument of Hackendown, or Field of Battle-axes, is a building in the ſtyle of very remote antiquity, intended to commemorate a battle fought on this ſpot between the Danes and Anglo Saxons in the year 853, as has been noticed before. On a tablet is the following inſcription:

D. M.
Danorum et Saxonum hic occiſorum
Dum de ſolo Britannico
(Milites nihil a ſe alienum putant)
Britannis perfide et crudeliter olim expulſis
Inter ſe demicaverunt;
Hen. de Holland
Poſuit.
Qui duces, qualis hujus prælii exitus,
Nulla notat hiſtoria:

Annum

Annum circiter DCCC^{m} evenit pugna;
Et pugnam hanc eveniſſe fidem faciunt
Oſſa quamplurima,
Quæ ſub hoc et altero tumulo huic vicino
ſunt ſepulta.

In Engliſh.

To the memory of the Danes and Saxons here ſlain, who were fighting for the poſſeſſion of Britain (Soldiers think every thing their own) the Britons having before been perfidiouſly and cruelly expelled. This was erected by Henry Lord Holland. No hiſtory records who were the commanders in this action, or what was the event of it. It happened about the year 800, and that it happened on this ſpot is credible, from the many bones which are buried in this and the adjacent tumulus.

Counteſs Fort contains a round tower, quite in ruins, with a circular outwork in the manner of our ancient fortifications. It was deſigned by the architect for an ice-houſe, but never applied to that purpoſe. The caſtle is exactly in the ſame ſtyle of building with the caſtles raiſed by Edward I. in Wales, to ſecure the conqueſt of thoſe wild and barren mountains. It ſerves the family for coach-houſes, ſtables, &c. The gate or paſſage to the ſea has the remains of a portcullis, to prevent any ſudden attack by privateers. The top of the Gothic arch ſerves as a line of communication between the north and ſouth of a ſaluting platform of twenty-four pieces of cannon. On the ſide next the ſea is inſcribed in Saxon capitals,

GOD BLESS BARTH'LEM'S GATE.

On that next the land an inſcription intimates, that whereas this gate was formerly called Bartholomew's Gate, it ſhould now take the name of King's Gate, in honour of Charles II.

Olim

Olim porta fui patroni Bartholomæi,
Nunc, regis juſſu, Regia Porta vocor.
Hic excenderunt Car. II. R.
Et Ja. dux Ebor. 30 Jun. 1683.

In Engliſh.

I, once by St. Bartholomew was claim'd,
But now, ſo bids a king, am Kingſgate nam'd.
King Charles the 2d. and James duke of York,
landed here 30 June 1683.

The Bead-houſe has the appearance of a chapel, dedicated to St. Peter, the patron of fiſhermen, and of the pariſh church. It has always been an houſe of entertainment, where you may be as well accommodated as in moſt houſes upon the coaſt. The Temple of Neptune is a mixture of the ancient Roman and original Gothic architecture. The following inſcriptions are on the pedeſtal which ſupports the ſtatue of the deity to whom it is dedicated. The firſt deſignedly full of falſe quantities.

1.

Inſula rotunda Tanatos quam circuit unda,
Fertilis et munda, nulli eſt in erbe ſecunda.

In Engliſh.

Thanet, round iſle, by water compaſs'd, reckon'd
Fertile and clean, to none on earth the ſecond.

2.

Divo Neptuno,
Inſulæ Tanatos
Defenſori,
Ædium Witfieldenſium*
Præcipue tutori,

* Lord Holland purchaſed this eſtate of Robert Whitfield, eſq; who had apartments in his lordſhip's new houſe as long as he lived.

Portæ

Portæ Regiæ et terrarum
Circumjacentium
Patrono,
Hanc Statuam,
Prope ædes prædictas compertam,
D. D. D. A°. 1768.
H. de Holland
Jam senior fractusque.

To the god Neptune, protector of the Isle of Thanet; particularly the defender of the house of Whitfield, patron of Kingsgate and its environs, this statue, which was found near the aforesaid house, was dedicated in the year 1768, by Henry lord Holland, then old and infirm.

3.

Thy Fisheries yield food, thy Commerce Wealth;
Thy Baths give Vigor, and thy Waters Health.

4.

Whitfield was safe, while Neptune kept his door,
Neptune retir'd, and Whitfield is no more.

Arx Ruohim. The Isle of Thanet, in the old British language, was called Innis Ruohim, or Richborough Isle, from its situation near the port of Richborough, hence this tower had its name*. The outwork of flint, which surrounds the white tower, resembles the castles erected by Henry VIII. for the protection of the Kentish coast. Inscription on a tablet:

* Sim. Dunelm. Hist. col. 120. Others, as Mr. Lewis's Hist. of Thanet, p. 2, and Dr. Campbell, Political Survey, vol. i, p. 396, suppose Innis Ruohim to be the isle in which Richbourgh formerly stood, and not Thanet, in which it never stood at all. Innis Ruohim, the Roman Isle, Innis Romanorum. Of this we shall speak more fully when we treat of the Cinque Ports.

Arx

Arx Ruohim,
Secundum Rev. & admodum ornatum
et eruditum virum Cornelium Willes*,
Tempore Principis Vortigern,
Annum circiter CCCCXLVIII,
Ædificata.

In Engliſh.

Ruohim Tower, according to the opinion of the Rev. and very accompliſhed and learned Cornelius Willes, built in the time of king Vortigern, about the year 448.

Harley Tower, built in the ſtyle of Roman architecture in honour of Thomas Harley, lord mayor of London, 1768.

On the cordon:

Magiſtratus indicat virum.
The Magiſtracy ſhows the man.

On the tablet:

This tower is dedicated to the Honour of Thomas Harley, Lord Mayor of London in the year of our Lord 1768.

Juſtum et tenacem propoſiti virum
Non civium ardor prava jubentium
Mente quatit ſolida.

In Engliſh.

The man in conſcious virtue bold,
Who dares his ſecret purpoſe hold,
Unſhaken hears the crowd's tumultuous noiſe.

Whitfield Tower, in the full perfection of Gothic architecture, is very elegant; the beauty of its ſhaft was equalled by the ornaments which graced its ſummit, but were blown down by the wind the firſt winter after it was finiſhed. On the tablet are the following lines:

* Late Vicar of St. Peter's, and Prebendary of Wells.

This Tower built
On the higheſt Spot of this Iſland
Is dedicated
To the Memory of Robert Whitfield, Eſq;
The Ornament and
(Under Thomas Wynn, Eſq;)
The Adorner of Kingſgate.

A Catalogue of the Statues, Buſts, Columns, &c. at Kingsgate,

In the Portico.

Two columns of marble of Breſcia di Saravezza, with vaſes, purple and white variegated.

One of antique Parian marble veined.

One of Pavonazetta marble, grey and white.

Two of deep brown alabaſter of Picorelli.

In the receſſes of the Portico.

Two very ancient Saracophagi.

In the Saloon of Neptune, niches next the windows:

A ſtatue of Sappho, of ſtatuary marble; a moſt elegant figure.

A ſlave bearing a large water veſſel, much admired for the firmneſs of attitude in ſupporting the weight on his ſhoulder.

In the lower niches.

A ſitting figure of Hecuba.

Oppoſite, another female figure ſitting; not known.

In the angles of the Colonade.

A very fine buſt of Trajan; ſtatuary marble.

A very ſcarce and valuable one of Caligula in his youth; ſtatuary marble

M. T. Cicero, with a plinth of Gialla Sienna marble.

Two unknown.

A fine head of Seneca expiring.

Another of Æſculapius.

On the Chimney piece.

A fine Etruſcan vaſe, ſome beautiful antique patteras, &c. ſmall baſſo relievos of Homer and Plato in antico roſſo,

On a table.

An odmirable buſt of Democritus, preſented to Lord Holland by ſir Charles Bunbury, with the following lines:

My dear lord, as a proof of my love and regard,
Accept of the buſto which comes with this card;
And may the old Grecian's ridiculous phiz
Inſpire you with notions as chearful as his;
Perſuade you with patience your griefs to endure,
And laugh at thoſe evils no weeping can cure.

Oppoſite a buſt of ſir T. Wynn, now lord Newborough, in white marble.

In the Veſtibule of the Saloon.

Centre niche, a very large Grecian urn, finely ornamented; the ſtory in baſſo relievo is the ſuove taurilia, or ſacrifice of the ſwine, ſheep, and bull.

A Satyr, and a Cleopatra.

In the receſs of the Veſtibule of the houſe oppoſite the ſtair-caſe.

An antique ſmall pillar, capital and baſe, with a buſt of Æſculapius in white marble.

In the Drawing Room or French Room.

Two large beautiful tables of roſſo granito.

Two fine vaſes of white alabaſter.

In the circular Room.

Four large ſtatues on large and curious urns, which ſerve as pedeſtals. 1. Flora. 2. Hygeia. 3. Diana venatrix. 4. Venus.

A beautiful Corinthian capital in white marble, dug out of the ruins of old Rome.

A Sacrifice.

A marine pillar of white marble.

A Roman Eagle of black Namur marble.

In the Paſſage Room.

A ſmall head of Plato in Giallo antico.

A ſmall column of Giallo antico.

Two ditto of Pietra ſanta.

A baſſo relievo of ſtatuary marble, ſuppoſed to be a ſepulchral piece of Marcus Aurelius and the younger Fauſtina.

The head of a boy in ſtatuary marble.

Caſts in terra cota:—Of Antonius; the dying Gladiator; the Wreſtlers; Perſeus and Andromeda; Venus attended by Cupid on a dolphin; the reverſe of the ſame figure; a Centaur with a Cupid on his back.

Two white marble pedeſtals for vaſes.

Two Satyrs heads.

A pair of green Oriental granite vaſes fluted, exceedingly large and beautiful, with plinth of Giallo antico; modern.

A pair of ditto of alabaſter of Volterra, near Florence, fluted and very fine; modern.

A pair ditto of grey marble with white veins; antique and perfect.

In the Library.

Two lava tables, finely poliſhed.

On the Chimney-piece.

A ſmall Hymen in white marble.

A Meduſa of the ſame ſize.

Caſts in bronze of three capital ſtatues; Hercules killing the Centaur, the lions killing the ox, the lion killing the orſe.

Some trifles dug out of the ruins of Herculaneum.

In Charles Tower.

A granite pillar.

An antique urn with an inſcription.

Two

Two termini, one Æſculapius, the other a Faun; the heads of roſſo antico, and the pedeſtals of lava.

A fine Sarcophagus.

Many cinerary urns of different ſizes, and ſome of them of exquiſite workmanſhip.

Fragment of an altar dedicated to Diana.

Ditto of a pillar.

Ditto of a piece of lava, part of the paving of the ſtreets of Pompeia.

Ditto of a ſquare ſtone with an inſcription.

In the Repoſitory.

Two ſmall columns of black Egyptian marble.

Two large columns of grey Berdilio marble.

Two large columns of verd antique, and other fragments of the ſame marble; very valuable.

Two ſmall fluted columns of antique white marble.

An ancient door-way of roſſo antico.

A profile of Auguſtus in white marble.

The Deæ Matres, three female figures without heads; the drapery very fine.

A cinerary urn.

Fragment of an antique cornice of white marble.

Ditto of a Bacchus.

Ditto not known.

The head of an ox in white marble.

Without doors, over the Gateways.

Two beautiful baſſo relievos of white ſtatuary marble; the one ſuppoſed to repreſent an ovation of Marcus Aurelius, the other to relate to the ſtory of Ceres and Proſerpine.

A broken pillar, with the baſe of Saravezza marble.

Some ſtones from the Giants Cauſeway in the county of Antrim in Ireland.

About fifty tons of the pietra di Veſuvio, or lava from Naples, of a bluiſh grey colour, and exquiſitely hard.

Still keeping along the coaſt, at the diſtance of about half a mile is the North Foreland, the extreme point eaſt of England. This cape projects far into the ſea, in form of a baſtion; on which is a light-houſe, a ſtrong octagon of flint, erected in 1683. A large fire of coals uſed to be kept blazing all night on the top of it, but in 1792 lamps with reflecting lenſes were ſubſtituted for the coal fire, as giving a more brilliant light, to guide ſhips ſailing near the coaſt. Every Britiſh ſhip going round the foreland, pays two-pence, and every foreign one four-pence, on each ton, for the ſupport of this light. It is under the direction of the elder brethren of the Trinity-houſe. The old building of lath and plaiſter having been burnt down, a kind of beacon was uſed till the preſent building was raiſed. It is inhabited by two men, who watch by turns. At Stone, a ſmall diſtance from hence, a pleaſant country ſeat was built in 1770, by the late ſir Charles Raymond, bart. as a place of ſummer reſidence. Near this place one of thoſe beacons formerly ſtood, which were fired to give an alarm to the country in caſe of an invaſion. The beacon was a tall piece of timber, at whoſe top, through a pulley, was an iron chain, to draw up a barrel of lighted pitch on that occaſion. A few years ſince ſome of this timber was dug up on the top of the Beacon-hill, about 55 rods nearer to Stone than the preſent light-houſe. In 1501, frequent mention is made of lands lying near or about the beacon, *juxta le beken, apud le beken, viam ducent, ad le beken,*

Hence we deſcend to Broadſtairs, or more properly Bradſtow, a conſiderable hamlet in the pariſh of St. Peter, which within the laſt century has been gradually growing in ſize and conſequence. In the year 1656, only eighteen,

in

in 1759, ſixty houſes were aſſeſſed to the poor's rate, and the number is greatly increaſed within theſe few years, for the accommodation of ſtrangers in the bathing ſeaſon; where thoſe who may not chuſe to mix in the gaiety and pleaſure of a more public place, will find this a retired and agreeable ſituation. This increaſe was probably firſt occaſioned by the number of veſſels fitted out for the North Sea, and Iceland cod-fiſhery. In the laſt mentioned year it ſent thirteen ſloops to Iceland on that account; and in a ſucceſsful year it is a very profitable trade. The cod bringing on an average, at home markets about 2l. 10s. an hundred, by tale; a conſiderable trade is carried on of the oil made of their livers. This trade has of late years much declined. The pier, being old and ruinous, was totally deſtroyed by a violent ſtorm, Jan. 2, 1767; but the harbour having been found to be of great uſe, it was rebuilt by voluntary ſubſcription in 1772. The droits or duties are confirmed by ancient uſage, and many decrees of the Lords Wardens of the Cinque Ports. Here are ſtill the remains of an old gate-way, built of flint, and fortified with a portcullis, to prevent the inroads of privateers; as alſo of a popiſh chapel, ſaid to be once held in ſuch great veneration, that ſhips in paſſing uſed to lower their topſails and ſalute it. On the 2d of Feb. 1762, a large male whale of the ſpermaceti kind was driven on ſhore here; whoſe dimenſions, taken upon the ſpot, were as follow:

	Feet.	*Inches.*
Length - - - - -	61	0
Circumference - - - -	45	0
Perpendicular height, as it lay on its ſide	12	0
Diſtance of the fins, meaſured acroſs the belly	8	6
From the noſe to the eye - - -	1	3
From the noſe to the fin - - -	1	6½

From

From the nose to the spout - - -	1	6
Length of the fin - - - -	4	6
Breadth of the fin - - - - -	3	0
From the tail to the navel - - - -	15	0
Length of the penis - - - -	6	0
Lower jaw - - - - - - -	8	0

The throat was so narrow as scarcely to admit of a man's arm. The lower jaw contained in two rows 48 teeth, from eighteen ounces downwards to not more than two or three. There were holes in the upper jaw corresponden to the teeth in the lower, but no large teeth. In both jaws were some small teeth about the size of the stem of a tobacco pipe, white as ivory, and the larger teeth when wrought were not distinguishable from it. The next day, Feb. the 3d, another whale of the same kind, and nearly of the same size, was thrown ashore at the same place. No less than thirteen male whales were driven out of their element by the stormy weather which prevailed at this time, or from some other hidden cause, of which we can give no account; viz. two at Broadstairs, one at Birchington, two on the coast of Essex, one on a shoal below the Hope Point in the river Thames, one on the coast of France, and six on the Dutch and Flemish coasts.

Opposite to this place, at the distance of somewhat more than two leagues from the shore are the Goodwin Sands, which extend in length, from north to south, about ten miles, and in breadth, almost two, and are visible at low water. Though these sands form a bank, which, in conjunction with the North and South Forelands, renders the Downs a tolerable safe harbour, yet in general they are very destructive to navigation; ships striking on them seldom escape, being usually quite swallowed up in a few tides, and sometimes in a very few hours. In the great

storm,

korm, Nov. 27, 1703, the Stirling-Caſtle, Reſtoration, Northumberland, and Mary, on board which was vice admiral Beaumont, were loſt upon theſe ſands, when upwards of 1100 ſeamen periſhed. As ſhipwrecks frequently happen, they become a good revenue to the fiſhermen and peaſants who live along the coaſt, and who ſeldom fail to improve them to the utmoſt advantage. This, however, muſt be owned in juſtice to them, that whenever there is a bare poſſibility of preſerving a ſhipwrecked crew, they act in contempt of danger, and do really often ſave the lives of others, at the moſt imminent hazard of their own. We cannot ſpeak with any certainty concerning the origin of theſe dangerous ſhoals; it has been conjectured, by thoſe writers who ought to have known better, that they were inhabited iſlands within theſe 1200 years, and part of earl Goodwin's eſtate, but were ſwallowed up by an earthquake, or overflowed by an inundation; but if either of theſe cataſtrophes had happened, in the period abovementioned, they would certainly heve been deſcribed in leſs ambiguous terms. Neither is there any mention of ſuch an iſland in Domeſday-book, where thoſe of Thanet, Sheppy, Graine, &c. are minutely deſcribed; or in the annals of St. Auguſtine and Chriſt-Church, Canterbury, which, without doubt, would have enjoyed ſome part of them, if they had been more than imaginary, and as fertile as repreſented; nor is mention made of it in any ancient terrier or repertory, which deſerves the leaſt degree of credit. The truth, in all probability, is, that in the beginning of the reign of Henry I. about the year 1100, a terrible inundation happened, which drowned a large track of land in Flanders and the Low Countries. The waters being thus drawn off, and diverted into another channel, the perpendicular depth in the adjoining ſea muſt of courſe be leſſened, ſo that theſe

ſands,

ſands, which might be ſafely paſſed over before, by ſhips of ſuch burden as were then in uſe, were afterwards little more than covered, even at high water. What ſeems to confirm this opinion is, that from the ſame cauſe the river Wantſum, which was a navigable river, ſurrounding the iſland, is become, as before obſerved, only an inſignificant ſtream, and the harbour of Sandwich, formerly of great note, has been ſo choaked up with ſand, as to be of much leſs uſe at preſent than it was heretofore. It is generally ſuppoſed that the Goodwin Sands are more ſoft and porous than thoſe along the neighbouring coaſt, in conſequence of which ſo many ſhips are almoſt inſtantaneouſly loſt; but this is a miſtake, for they are as hard and tenacious as any other. Veſſels, indeed, are ſoon ſwallowed up at high water, if they hold together, by reaſon of their violent agitation. All heavy bodies reſting on ſand, when put in motion, will work gradually downwards, and their deſcent will be in proportion to their degree of motion. But ſometimes Veſſels have been known ſuddenly to diſappear upon what is called the *back* of the Goodwin, where the depth varies from a few feet to many fathoms, in a very ſhort diſtance.

One mile to the right of Bradſtow is the pleaſant village of St. Peter, which has a neat and beautiful church; the tower of which is a well known ſea-mark, and the proſpect from the top is as delightful and extenſive, both by ſea and land, as the imagination can form. The aſcent to it is ſafe and eaſy, by ſtone ſteps. The crack which appears in this ſteeple, is ſaid to have been cauſed by an earthquake, in the reign of queen Elizabeth. In matters of juriſdiction, St. Peter's is ſubject to the town and port of Dover, to which it was annexed by letters patent of Henry VIII. This village has thirty-five hamlets or knots of houſes in it,

it, all which bear different names. There are two fairs each year in this pariſh, one on July 10, (Old St. Peter,) and the other on April 5, (Old Lady Day). Theſe may originally have been wakes, one on account of St. Peter, to whom the church, and the other on account of the B. Virgin, to whom the north chancel was dedicated. Going on, with a full view of the cliffs of Calais to the left, we paſs through the ville of Dumpton to

Ramſgate, which is ſituated in a cove of the chalky cliff. It was anciently an obſcure village, built for the convenience of the fiſhery; but of late years has been much improved and enlarged, owing to a ſucceſsful trade, which its inhabitants have carried on, ſince the year 1688, to Ruſſia and the Eaſt Country. The town, which is daily augmenting in ſize, is built in the form of a croſs, and has in it many elegant and commodious houſes, in ſome of which ſeveral very genteel families conſtantly reſide. Chapel-row, Proſpect-row, and Albion-place, may be ranked as ſome of the beſt buildings as well as fineſt ſituations in the Iſle of Thanet. It has alſo ſome good inns, an elegant toy-ſhop, a valuable and extenſive library, and ſeveral good and well furniſhed ſhops. In 1785 an act of parliament was obtained for new paving and lighting its ſtreets, and a market is held weekly on Wedneſday and Saturday. Since ſea-bathing has become ſo faſhionable an amuſement, the pleaſant and healthy ſituation of Ramſgate has induced many of the nobility and gentry to reſort thither in the ſeaſon; in conſequence of which, an elegant aſſembly-room, coffee-room, billiard-room, a complete ſet of lodging-rooms, and warm ſalt water baths, on a very good conſtruction, have been lately erected near the Pier; from which is a moſt delightful proſpect of the Downs, the French coaſt, the South Foreland cliffs, Deal, Sandwich, and Eaſt

Kent,

Kent, and ſome of the higheſt towers of Dover caſtle may be diſcovered with a good glaſs. Here are alſo machines, with proper guides, and every accommodation for bathing. The bathing-place is under the cliffs on the eaſt ſide of the harbour; the bottom is of chalk, covered with ſand, being an excellent bottom for bathing.—Hoys with good accommodation for paſſengers ſail to and from London every week. The poſt comes in from London and returns daily. Machines and ſeveral carriers ſet out every day for Canterbury, during the ſeaſon, and returns the ſame evening.

Henry VIII. by letters patent, united this town to Sandwich, within whoſe juriſdiction it ſtill continues, and its inhabitants pay a portion of the land-tax levied on the town to which it is ſubject, the mayor of which appoints a deputy, who reſides here. The pariſh church is at St. Laurence, about half a mile from Ramſgate; it ſtands upon a hill, is a handſome and ſpacious building, with a lofty ſquare tower. Formerly it was a chapel to Minſter, but in 1275, the archbiſhop of Canterbury conſecrated the church-yard, and made the church parochial. For the more convenient accommodation of the company, a new and elegant chapel has been erected on the ſide of the town near the rope-walk, and adjoining to it the handſome buildings called Chapel-row, which commands a moſt delightful proſpect, both of ſea and land.

The new harbour, which cannot fail to attract the notice of all ſtrangers, being the fineſt and moſt capacious in England, or perhaps in Europe, was begun in the year 1750; but on account of many interruptions, it is not yet quite finiſhed. It conſiſts of two piers; the eaſtern one is built entirely of white Purbec ſtone, and extends itſelf into the ocean near 800 feet, before it forms an angle. Its breadth at top is 26 feet, including a ſtrong parapet wall,

which

which runs along the outside of it. About 400 feet of the western pier is constructed of wood, but the remainder of stone, like the other. The angles, of which there are five in each pier, are of 160 feet each, with octagons at the ends of 60 feet, leaving an entrance of 300 feet into the harbour; but the advanced work from the east pier, which extends 300 feet farther into the sea, has contracted the present entrance to 200 feet. The depth admits of a gradual increase, from 15 to 36 feet. This harbour is intended as a place of refuge for ships in hard gales of wind from south-east to east-north-east, when they are exposed to the utmost danger in the Downs. From the length of time this work was in hand, the harbour was much choaked with sand and mud; but as the heads were extended farther out into the sea, and less of it thrown in, it has been gradually improving for some years. The shelter it has since afforded (by the great improvements under the acting trustees, assisted by the direction of the late Mr. John Smeaton, engineer, and the ingenious builder of the present Eddistone lighthouse,) to the great and still encreasing number of ships, sufficiently proves its national utility. In the space of eleven years, from 1780 to 1790 inclusive, the number of vessels which took shelter in this harbour in stormy weather, increased annually from 29 to 387, from 300 to 500 tons burthen and more; and in the last 17 months of 1790 and 1791, upwards of 600 sail entered it for safety, of which more than 300 were bound to and from London. In January 1791, no less than 130 sail at one time found safety here. The bason, which is formed by a wall stretching across the upper or northern part of the harbour, is furnished with a pair of spacious gates for the passage of ships, and six sluices, which being drawn at low water, serve all the purposes of a back stream for clearing away the sand

and beach which may have been driven into the harbour by the flood tide. Mr. Smeaton, in his Report of Ramſgate Harbour, publiſhed by order of the truſtees in 1791, ſays "After all, an harbour that muſt ſubſiſt by the artificial "power of ſluices, muſt be ſubject to continual expence, "and will require great care to keep every thing in repair "and in order; but if every thing is duly, properly, and "attentively performed, I doubt not but to ſee the time "when it will be ſaid, notwithſtanding its misfortunes, "and the obliquy that has been occaſionally caſt upon it, "to be a work worthy the expence it has incurred." At the eaſt end of the baſon is a commodious dry dock, and contiguous ſtorehouſes, with every convenience for loading and unloading of ſhips, where veſſels may be repaired with the greateſt ſafety.

From Ramſgate we paſs through St. Laurence, about two miles, to Cliff-end; from whence turning ſouthward, and proceeding towards Sandwich, we ſoon arrive at Wippedsfleet, now Ebbsfleet, a celebrated place of antiquity. It is a ſmall creek or bay, about three miles from Sandwich, and little more than a mile from Richborough caſtle. There ſeems formerly to have been a commodious haven at this place, as we find it famous for the landing of the Saxons under Hengiſt, and the miſſionaries who attended Auguſtine. Advancing ſtill towards Sandwich, we paſs two or three houſes, which are the only remains of the ancient town of Stonar. This place, according to archbiſhop Uſher, and ſome other hiſtorians, was the *Lapis Tituli* of the Romans, and tradition ſays, that Vortimer, king of the Britons, having vanquiſhed the Saxons in many battles and driven them out of the iſland, ordered his corpſe to be interred here, thinking that his monument would terrify the enemy from landing any more on this coaſt; but the Britons

tons found, by ſad experience, the difference between a king in the field and in the grave. But Somner, Stillingfleet, Gale, and Stukeley, place it at Folkſtone, and Batteley at Stone-end, between Dungeneſs and Romney. Be this as it may; the town of Stonar was ſituated oppoſite to Sandwich, and probably reached to the ſhore of the Wantſum on that ſide. The church ſtood on a ſmall eminence about half a mile from the river, to the eaſt of the great road. The town ſeems to have been populous in the time of William II. a court being held there by the juſtices; at this court it was agreed between the men of Lundenwic, (Sandwich) and the men of Stonar, that the abbot's privileges ſhould extend from the ſhore to the middle of the water, or Wantſum. This charter was confirmed by Henry I. and K. Stephen. Various were the diſputes between the abbot of St. Auguſtine and the men of Stonar, becauſe the latter would not ſubmit to the authority of the former, do ſervice in his court, or acknowledge that their tenements belonged to the barony of St. Auguſtine. In 1368, the mayor of Sandwich, and certain men of the town of Stonar, were ſued for a treſpaſs, by Robert de Stoke, ſheriff of Kent. But they refuſed to anſwer in his court, alledging, that as they enjoyed in common the privileges of the Cinque Ports, they would only plead in the court of Shipway; on which refuſal, they were committed to priſon; and it was adjudged that the town of Stonar belonged to the abbot. They were releaſed on paying him a fine. Notwithſtanding this deſeat, it appears that the Stonar men accompliſhed their deſign ſoon afterwards, and were made members of the Cinque Port of Sandwich. Indeed ſeveral authors aſſert, that Stonar belonged to this port from the time of Edward the Confeſſor; but this cannot be reconciled with the foregoing legal proceſs. It ſeems evident, however, long before

the year 1368, the mayor of Sandwich exerciſed certain juridical powers in this town; and alſo the office of judge of the crown, commonly called coroner. It was uſual with the mayor of Sandwich, ſoon after he was elected to cauſe the common town horn to be blown at certain places in the town of Stonar, and ſummon the inhabitants to aſſemble at a time and place appointed; at which aſſembly the mayor choſe a fit perſon to act as his deputy in that town, who was in all caſes to perform the office of mayoralty, except in giving judgment, which was to be done by the mayor himſelf, within the liberties of the town of Stonar. In the year 1385 the town received a fatal blow, from which it never recovered. It was firſt plundered and afterwards burnt by the French. Such was the effect of this conflagration, that when it was viſited by archbiſhop Parker, in 1569, there were neither houſes nor communicants. Mr. Lewis ſays, that in the archbiſhop's acts of viſitation for that year, there is this entry:

"Stonard rectoria ex patronatu Henrici Criſpe militis.
"Rectoria vacat per mortem ultimi rectoris ibidem,
"Sunt indicta parochia domicila, } Nulli."
"Communicantes }

This may be called an epitaph on the departed town; to which may be added what Dr. Plot has left in manuſcript about the year 1693, which is quoted by Dr. Harris. "The ruins of the town of Stonar did remain till within "the memory of man, and took up many acres of ground, "but were lately removed to render the ground fit for tillage; and ſo much of them as could not be put to another uſe, compoſed that bank which remains between the "two houſes, whereof that houſe next the creek borders "upon the old town; the other, which is more remote, "being of a later erection, but both called Stonar." At this

this time Stonar is in the juriſdiction of the county at large, and not in that of any of the Cinque Ports. In the laſt century it was the eſtate of the Criſpes, an ancient family at Birchington; one of whom conveyed it to ſir George Rooke, admiral of Great Britain, in 1699. His eldeſt ſon married the eldeſt ſiſter of the late right hon. lord viſcount Dudley and Ward, and at his death gave it, among others, by will, to his widow, She is ſucceeded in poſſeſſion by her nephew, the preſent lord viſcount Dudley and Ward. Among other improvements ſome ſalt-works have been erected here, which are curious and worthy of obſervation. The ſea-brine is drawn, during the hotteſt of the Summer months, into open, broad, ſhallow pans, of a great extent; where, having continued till the more watery particles have been exhaled by the ſun, it is conveyed into large boilers, and made in the uſual method. The ſalt having thus undergone a double proceſs, both by the ſun, and by common fire, is found to partake ſo far of the qualities of bay-ſalt, as to anſwer all its purpoſes. It is perfectly white and clear, and ſuppoſed, from a variety of experiments, to be at leaſt equal in ſtrength to any made in the kingdom. An act of parliament was obtained in May 1776, for leave to make a cut or canal, near this place, from the Stour into the Haven, for draining the ſuperfluous waters off the lands above, which are conſtantly overflowed in wet ſeaſons, and is found to be very effectual for that purpoſe.

About a mile to the right of Stonar is Richborough, the Rutupiæ, or Urba Rutupina, of the Romans. It was their firſt and moſt conſiderable ſtation in this kingdom, being the chief port from whence they carried on their trade and connections with the Continent. All this part of the coaſt, oppoſite to Dunkirk, Calais, and Bologne, was called the Rutupian ſhore, from the name of the chief ſettlement.

The Roman forces uſually landed here; and many of their coins (particularly thoſe of the lower empire) have been found near to the place. It is ſaid to have remained in a reſpectable ſtate above a thouſand years, quite down to the Anglo Saxons, when both the town, and the caſtle, which had been built for its defence by Veſpaſian, were finally ruined by the ravages of the Danes, about the year 1010. There are not the leaſt traces of this once famous city to be found; even the ruins of it are no more, and the ground, whereon it ſtood, is become an open corn-field. But the remains of the caſtle are ſtill to be ſeen, and do exceedingly well deſerve notice; they are of conſiderable extent*. The walls, whoſe original height cannot be aſcertained, becauſe nowhere perfect, are in ſome places near twelve feet in thickneſs, compoſed chiefly of flints and Roman bricks; the latter are ſixteen inches long, eleven broad, and one and a half thick, and of an incredible hardneſs; they are laid at ſmall intervals, and the vacuities between filled with round beach-ſtones. It had two gates, the one to the weſt, and the other to the north. The whole eaſtern ſide of the caſtle is ſunk down and deſtroyed by the fall of the cliff, the remainder is ruinous and overgrown with ivy, and ſtands only as a melancholy monument of its former greatneſs. Upon an eminence, near the caſtle, is the carcaſe of the caſtrenſian amphitheatre†, made of turf, ſuppoſed for the

* A view of this caſtle is given by Dr. Stukeley, in plate 97 of his Itin. Curioſ. vol. i. and a S. W. view of it from Sandwich, in plate 35, vol. ii. 1722. There is alſo a N. W. view of it by Buck, 1735. Many curious remarks upon Richborough caſtle, the town of Stonar, as well as much uſeful information concerning the Cinque Ports and their members, will be found in Mr. Boys's Collections for an Hiſtory of Sandwich, publiſhed in 1792.

† A plate of this amphitheatre is alſo given by Dr. Stukeley, in his Itin. Curioſ. vol. ii. p. 125.

exerciſe

exercise and diversion of the garrison; the soil is of gravel and sand, and has been long ploughed over. Such is the present appearance of Richborough; but as the curious will not probably be satisfied with this short account of these venerable remains, we would refer them to the very ingenious and elegant latin tract of Dr. Batteley, entitled *Antiquitates Rutupinæ*, a translation of which, with some illustrative notes*, was published in 1774.

One mile from Stonar we cross the river Stour, by a drawbridge, and enter Sandwich, where commences our seventh stage.

STAGE VII.

*Ancient and present state of Sandwich; conjectures on the decay of the Cinque Ports.—Woodnesborough.—Eastry.—Northbourn.—Deal.—South Foreland.—St. Margaret's Bay.—*DOVER.

SANDWICH is near a mile and a half from the sea, eight miles from Margate, twelve from Canterbury, ten from Dover and five from Deal. The walls of the town, which were made by throwing up the earth, are nearly in the form of a parallellogram, and are about five furlongs in length from east to west, and two and a half from north to south; at the foot of which is a wet ditch of considerable breadth. They command a pleasant and extensive view of the adjacent country. In these walls are several semicircular projections which overlook the ditches, there were also some pieces of ordnance, which being quite unserviceable,

* By the Rev. J. Duncombe, M. A. one of the six preachers in Christ-Church, Canterbury.

have

have been removed. The river and quays are on the north-side of the town, there were several gates belonging to it, most of which being in a ruinous condition, have been pulled down. On the east side was Sandown gate, through which was the road to Deal; on the south-side Newgate, which lead to Dover; and Woodnesborough gate in the road to that once famous village; on the west stood Canterbury gate, through which lay the road to that city; on the north-side is Davis or David's gate, at one end of which is a watch tower, called the Barbican, and at the other the custom-house. It is directly opposite the new bridge, over which is the avenue into the isle of Thanet: a little below this is Fisher's gate, which faces that part of the river where was formerly a ferry, which before the erection of the bridge, was the only passage into the island. There was likewise a gate called Gregory Ive's gate, at the bottom of Love-lane; Pillory gate, adjoining to the Dolphin-Key, and Hunter's-gate, but these are demolished. On the north east angle of the walls was an ancient tower called the Bulwark. It was about twenty feet high, thirty feet long, and twenty feet broad, embattled on the top. It commanded the harbour, and was formerly used as a look-out house, but being much decayed was a few years since taken down. It appears, from the remains of fortifications about this town, that it was anciently a place of great strength, and before the use of cannon, was capable of enduring a vigorous siege.—Sandwich has been esteemed the most famous of all the ports in England; and is thought, by many respectable authors, to have been the landing-place generally used by the Romans and inhabitants of the ancient city Rutupiæ. But it is probable that both Sandwich and Richborough were understood by that appellation; Sandwich having been the port for landing and embarking, and Richborough the garrison

garriſon for the troops. Near the mills at Aſh is a Roman burying ground; from which it ſeems reaſonable to conclude, that the Roman road from Canterbury ran by this place, and proceeded from thence by Brook-ſtreet to Richborough caſtle.

" * Sandwich in the opinion of ſome, and thoſe too of our greateſt antiquaries, is thought to be the Portus Rhutupinus (called Portus Ritupis in the Itinerary) of the ancient Romans, and in their times the moſt celebrated port in Britain. But, though in effect the thing is really ſo, yet one may, with more propriety, ſay, that Sandwich is all that is now left of the Roman port, than that it is the port. The farther this matter has been enquired into, the ſtricter the care with which it has been examined, and the cloſer it has been ſifted, by the ableſt critics, the plainer truth has gradually appeared. It grew evident, upon their firſt reſearches, that, in ancient times, when there were far better opportunities of coming at certainty, Richborough, or rather Ratiſborough, or, as Beda calls it, Reptaceaſtre, and not Sandwich, was taken for Rhutupium. The very learned, ſagacious, and indefatigable Somner thought to ſettle this point, by ſeparating the Roman fortreſs from the city; he allows that Richborough was the former, but maintains, that we are to look for the latter at Sandwich. Other able and diligent antiquaries perceived that Richborough, though it is now, had not been always on the Kentiſh ſide of the Wantſume, and thence concluded, that it muſt have been once in the iſland of Thanet. On a yet deeper diſquiſition, it was conceived,

* We are oblidged to the very ingenious Dr. Campbell for the following account of Sandwich and the Cinque Ports, given in his valuable work, the Political Survey of Great Britain.

from

from the ancient deſcriptions, there were certainly two places of this name; and, therefore, the ingenious and judicious Mr. Horſley chuſes rather to call them Ritupiæ, or Rhutupiæ, than Rhutupium, in which he is juſtified by Ptolemy. All theſe enquiries tended finally to ſhew, that this was, when the Romans poſſeſſed the country, and long after, a port of very great extent; and which muſt, conſequently, have been very different from what Sandwich now is, or indeed, ever was, ſince that very little part of the port, which is ſtill left, received its denomination from that place. Upon comparing, therefore, all theſe paſſages together, and attending to the diſcoveries of a very diligent obſerver of the face of the country, to whoſe care we owe a philoſophic chart of this part of Kent,* we ſee pretty clearly how things muſt have ſtood in thoſe remote times, and, of courſe, the condition of this port, which, as I formerly promiſed, I will now, though not without ſome apprehenſion of cenſure, do my beſt to explain.

"Thanet, which is ſcarce at this day a peninſula, was formerly a complete iſland, and nearly, as I take it, of a circular figure. In the time of the Romans, the ſea on the ſouth-weſt ſide of the iſland, between that and the main-land of Kent, was at leaſt four miles broad, and gradually decreaſing as it paſſed along the ſouth ſide of the iſland, became at length leſs than two miles, and at Sarr, which was the narroweſt part, might be about a mile and a half. Thus far flowed the ſouth, which there met the north ſea; that entered at what was from thence ſtiled Northuma, that is, North Mouth, where remains of every kind, bricks, domeſtic utenſils, coins, &c. plainly ſhew there was a Roman ſtation, not at all inferior in ſplendour to the other

* Dr. Packe's philoſophical deſcription of Eaſt Kent, p. 44.

at

at Ritupium; and to cover this city, as well as to defend the entrance of the ſafeſt and moſt important port then in the iſland, they conſtructed on a riſing ground a ſtrong and noble fortreſs, which was called Regulbium, by the Saxons Raculfceſter, now Reculver. At the oppoſite entrance, on the ſouth-weſt ſide of Thanet, in a ſmall iſland, which theſe buildings almoſt entirely occupied, ſtood the city and fortreſs of Ritupium, which is now, with ſome indelible characters of ancient ſtrength and luſtre, ſtiled Richborough.—This, as it gives a ſatisfactory view of a deep, ſecure, and extenſive harbour, ſhews why thoſe ſtations and fortreſſes were erected at each extremity, accounts for their being named Ritupiæ, and affords us a juſt idea of the wiſe policy and admirable contrivance of the Romans, to render this province of Cantium rich and well peopled, by making this commodious haven and its emporia the centre of commerce between Britain and the countries round it.

"It would be no difficult taſk, if both the external and internal characters of veracity were leſs apparent, to maintain all that has been advanced from the moſt authentic writers. We have the teſtimony of an unexceptionable author, that through this port lay the direct and accuſtomed paſſage to London by ſea, beyond the middle of the fourth century.—It remained in its natural and perfect ſtate, ſo long as the Romans enjoyed Britain, and no doubt for ſome time after. But in Beda's time, and perhaps an age before that, the port began to decline by diminiſhing its breadth: For he tells us that it was then but three furlongs wide, fordible in two places, and was called Wantſume, or the deficient water. It continued however a paſſable ſtreight for ſhips of ſome burthen, till about the Norman conqueſt; a little after which what had been already begun was proſecuted with diligence. For, as we are told, when it was

once

once perceived that the tides no longer flowed with any conſiderable vigour, ſo that this element, which is naturally irreſiſtable, ſeemed leſs able to keep what is yet retained of its ancient poſſeſſions, the inhabitants on both ſides began to dyke out the ſea, ſo that gradually they brought on thoſe great changes which now appear. The ſtream that originally ran into the arm of the north ſea, which divided Thanet from the Continent, runs now, which ſhews in ſome meaſure the breadth of the old channel, a mile and a half eaſt of Reculver, while the Stour makes its way into the ſouth ſea at Sandwich.—The diſtance between theſe two ſtreams is ſomething better than a mile; which iſthmus however is cut by an artificial current of water, called the mile-ſtream, over which there is a bridge in the road to Sarr; ſo that the iſle of Thanet, which was formerly ſeparated from the Continent, by the entire channel of the old Portus Rhutupinus, or Ritupenſis, and was then, as in its natural ſtate, all high land, is now a peninſula, or at beſt a river iſle only, with the Stour-Wantſume on the ſouth, the mile-ſtream on the ſouth-weſt, and the Nethergong-Wantſume on the weſt. The reſt of the iſland looks to the Eaſt and North Seas as heretofore; but the figure (for which the reaſon will be hereafter given) is altered from a circular to an irregular oval; which circumſtance, as we ſhall likewiſe ſhew, is a very ſtrong confirmation of the reality of that opinion which is here advanced.

"It is very poſſible that an inquiſitive and judicious reader may expect ſomething more diſtinct and particular, as to the preciſe time when, and the manner in which this famous port was thus ruined and loſt: but in tracing theſe points I cannot pretend to the ſame certainty as with regard to the general facts already mentioned, which I think too well ſupported to admit of any controverſy. However, I

will

will ſpeak my private ſentiment, and leave it either to be confirmed or refuted by ſome abler pen. It ſeems then very probable to me, that the firſt encroachments were made by the monks or other eccleſiaſtics, to whom, as I take it, both the Ritupiæ were given by the Kings of Kent; and they having, at leaſt in thoſe days, no notion of trade, but being great improvers of land, thought every addition of this nature a mighty acquiſition. The Saxons had probably deſtroyed the Roman fortreſs, though not the city of Ritupium, during their wars with the Britons; and I apprehend the firſt ſtep taken of this kind, was annexing the iſland upon which it ſtood to the Continent of Kent. This was actually accompliſhed before Beda's time, for he does not ſeem ſo much as to have heard that it ever was an iſland. I will here take the liberty of mentioning a ſuſpicion of my own; which is this, that even our ableſt antiquaries are miſtaken in ſuppoſing that the ancient Britons gave the name of Innis Ruyn to the iſland of Thanet, and this for the very reaſon they aſſign in ſupport of their opinion, that it referred to the Roman port of Rutupium; whereas it ſeems much more likely, that this appellation belonged to the little iſland on which that city ſtood, and not to the iſland of Thanet, upon which it never ſtood at all.

"After the junction of the iſle to Kent, the ſea no longer flowing with the ſame freedom, began to throw up immenſe quantities of beach on the oppoſite ſide, which produced Stonar, more properly Eſtanore, that is, the Eaſt Stone Shore, originally an iſle by itſelf, but quickly united by the monks, who made a cauſeway for that purpoſe to the iſle of Thanet. Here there was a very conſpicuous town, though now there is only a farm houſe, and a kind of port, about which, in later times, there were great diſputes between the inhabitants of Sandwich and the abbots of St. Auſtin in Canterbury, the former claiming it as dependent upon their

port, and the latter as belonging to them in virtue of royal grants. This warm conteſt is commonly ſaid to have been between the citizens of London and the abbots of St. Auſtin, but that ariſes from the denomination that Sandwich once had of Londonwic; becauſe while the Rutupian road remained in a tolerable degree free and open, it was the conſtant ſtation, as the Downs now is, of the ſhipping belonging to the port of London, then, as at preſent, the greateſt trading city in this iſland.

"After all, Sandwich, though at the diſtance of a long ſeries of years, came in the place of Rutupium; that is, when the Roman city was deſtroyed, and the port of Ebbesfleet, properly Wippedsfleet, on the ſide of Thanet began to fill up, a new town was neceſſarily built on the Continent, and the correſpondence which had ſo long ſubſiſted between the old port and the oppoſite coaſt was gradually transferred thither. But that Sandwich, though it came thus in the place, could never be the Roman Rutupium, will appear from a few ſhort remarks. It does not anſwer the deſcription given of that place by ancient hiſtorians. It ſtands low, in an unhealthy ſituation, which no Roman city ever did. There have been no coins, or other relics of antiquity, found in or near it. Laſtly, the name is plainly Saxon, and ſhews that the coaſt was expoſed to drifts of ſand when this place was built. It is impoſſible to fix the date of its foundation; but about the middle of the ninth century, Athelſtan king of Kent, beat a Daniſh fleet here; and from that period to the Norman Conqueſt it was reputed the beſt port in England; for till then, and a conſiderable time after, the paſſage, though much diminiſhed in breadth, was open; ſince we find that Earl Goodwin, after ravaging the coaſt of Suſſex, ſailed behind the iſle of Thanet and came up the Thames.

"King Knute, or Canutus, gave this town and port by a very memorable charter to the monaſtry of Chriſt-church in Canterbury

Canterbury. In the reign of Edward the Confeſſor, as we find in Domeſday-book, there were in this borough three hundred and ſeven houſes. In King John's time it was burned by Lewis of France. Edward the Firſt, to reſtore the place, removed the ſtaple thither, and acquired the beſt part of it from the monks. His grandſon, Edward the Third, completed the Exchange, and recovered this town from them entirely, for the manor of Borley in Eſſex. The wars with France in that and in the ſucceeding reigns, particularly thoſe of Henry the Fifth, contributed very much to the benefit of the place, and to enriching its inhabitants. In the reign of Henry the Sixth it had a very flouriſhing trade, ſo that the cuſtoms amounted to between fifteen and twenty thouſand pounds per annum; and in the next reign it had ninety-five ſhips, and upwards of fifteen hundred ſeamen; but not long after it began to decay. Leland tells us, that a great ſhip belonging to pope Paul the Third, being loſt in the harbour, in the reign of Henry the Eighth, a bank came in the place, by the gradual acceſſion of ſands; and ſince that time it has been continually growing worſe and worſe, notwithſtanding all the endeavours that have been uſed for its recovery, and notwithſtanding the Flemings, who ſettled here in the reign of queen Elizabeth, not only ſet up a manufacture, but alſo taught the inhabitants ſeveral methods of improving their land, particularly by the cultivation of carrots, and other vegetables, in high perfection; on account of which Sandwich has long been celebrated. It retains, however, the honour of being one of the Cinque Ports, and is ſtill the only legal Port in this county, with a cuſtom-houſe, and proper officers; though in other reſpects, but the ſhadow of what it was.

"The Cinque Ports, or as we very frequently find them called ſimply, the Ports, by way of excellence, ſeem to

have been copied from the Roman inſtitution; and though there is now no charter extant, earlier than the reign of Edward I. yet in that there is mention made of immunities granted them by William the Conqueror; and the Cuſtoms of particular places extend ſtill higher, which ſhew they are derived from immemorial preſcription. The five Ports are Haſtings, New Romney, Hythe, Dover, and Sandwich; the two additional towns, Rye and Winchelſea. Each of theſe head Ports had ſeveral members, the inhabitants of which participated of their privileges, and a bore a ſhare in their expences. They were bound in lieu of all other ſervices, to exert their naval force, for maintaining and protecting the free navigation of the Channel, by preventing piracies, and all impediments or interruptions thereto.—They were, amongſt them, to furniſh fifty-ſeven ſhips, every ſhip to be manned with twenty men and a boy, at their own coſts, for the ſpace of fifteen days, and ſo long after as the king ſhall pleaſe to appoint; but then they were to be in his pay. The honours, privileges, and prerogatives granted to them, in conſideration of theſe ſervices, were many and great. Amongſt others, they were each of them to ſend two Barons to repreſent them in Parliament; were, by their deputies, to bear the canopy over the king's head at his coronation, and to dine at the uppermoſt table, in the great hall, on his right hand; to be exempted from ſubſidies, and other aids; their heirs to be free from perſonal wardſhip, notwithſtanding any tenure; to be impleaded in their own towns, and not elſewhere; to hold pleas and actions real and perſonal; to have conuſance of fines; to have the power of enfranchiſing of villains; not to be liable to tolls, and to have a full liberty of buying and ſelling; to appoint their bailiff to have juriſdiction with the magiſtrates of Yarmouth, during the fiſhing-fair; and

many

many others of leſs importance. It was to direct and enforce the due performance of theſe important ſervices, and to ſuperintend the punctual preſervation of theſe extraordinary privileges, that the conſtable of Dover caſtle, ſtiled alſo lord warden, chancellor, and admiral of the Cinque Ports, was appointed; which high office has been ſometimes executed by the heirs apparent of the crown, often by princes of the royal blood, and always by perſons of the firſt rank in the kingdom. In conſequence of this eſtabliſhment, the ſhips of theſe, in conjunction with thoſe of other ports, were the navy of the realm; and as our hiſtories ſhew, in almoſt every reign, diſcharged this truſt with great honour and reputation; neither were the Cinque Ports reſtrained to the number of veſſels before-mentioned, but have ſometimes fitted out double the number; and, when larger ſhips were thought neceſſary, have equipped fewer of theſe, at an expence equivalent to that which their ſervice by tenure would have occaſioned. At the cloſe of queen Elizabeth's reign they had five ſhips, of one hundred and ſixty tons each, at ſea for five months, at their own charges; and in the beginning of the reign of Charles I. they fitted out two large ſhips, which ſerved for two months, and coſt them upwards of eighteen hundred pounds.

"As we have thus ſhewn what their force once was, let us now examine the cauſes that have been aſſigned for their decay. The firſt is, the failing of their reſpective havens, ſome by the deſertion, ſome by the impetuoſity, and ſome by the beach thrown out of the ſea; as to which we have already ſaid ſomewhat, and ſhall hereafter ſay more. In the next place, the change in the navy is alledged, and with good reaſon. While the Ports were entruſted with the ſea force of England, they were well enabled to build and maintain many ſtout ſhips, according to the notions of

thoſe days, from the certainty of their being taken into the pay of the crown in time of war, which, inſtead of impoveriſhing, ſerved to enrich them, almoſt as much as trade, in time of peace; and was likewiſe, while ſuch a method of maintaining a naval ſtrength was adequate to the wants of the public, advantageous alſo to the nation. The third cauſe of their ſinking was from the invaſion of their privileges in reſpect to trade, not by laying them open for the common good, but by transferring them to others. Firſt, in regard to foreign commerce, the charter granted by James I. to the merchant-adventurers, excluded them from trading to Germany and the Low Countries, which was the principal ſource of their wealth; and by their long intercourſe with the inhabitants, they had procured to themſelves advantages and immunities, which, by this interruption of their correſpondence, were loſt. Next, in reference to their common tranſactions in domeſtic trade. The citizens of London, though the charter of the Cinque Ports be near an hundred years older than theirs, diſputed their right of buying and ſelling freely their cloths in Blackwell-hall, and in the cloſe prevailed. This induced the manufacturers and the maſters of trading veſſels to remove, and of courſe the merchants followed them; and being thus unhappily ſtripped of thoſe advantages, whence aroſe their opulence and ſplendor in former ages, it is no great wonder that even the traces of both are almoſt worn out in ours. But though the wonder is not great, yet we cannot ſay the ſame as to the loſs, which certainly is much to be regretted.

"The diſcovering ſome acquaintance with the antiquities of this county, the recalling ſome forgotten truths to remembrance, or bringing ſome memorial of the importance, grandeur, and decline, of the Cinque Ports, to the public view, though very laudable endeavours in themſelves,

ſelves, were not the motives of my entering ſo deep into, or dwelling ſo long upon, this ſubject. My true deſign is, to place in a proper light, what I take to be the ſtrongeſt inſtance that can be produced in ſupport of the general doctrine this chapter is intended to eſtabliſh. As high in point of time as we have any lights from authentic hiſtory, this territory was the principal ſeat of our foreign commerce. For in this, by the cleareſt evidence, we have ſhewn the Romans had a conveniency we have loſt, an haven between Kent and Thanet, which, all circumſtances conſidered, of ſituation, ſize, and ſafety, may be perhaps affirmed ſuperior to any we have left. Beſides that, they had alſo ſeveral other good ports, which they fortified, ſecured and preſerved, that are now, ſome totally gone, others become very inconſiderable, all mightily impaired. We have no direct or poſitive proofs, indeed, of their carrying on a lucrative trade; but the probability of this is ſo ſtrong, that it cannot be doubted.

"For as they made their firſt impreſſion, ſo they extended their dominion, in this iſland, by their naval force; and we know, that could only be ſuſtained by commerce. In this, it is moſt likely, thoſe immenſe ſums were employed, which Seneca is reputed to have lent at intereſt. Carauſius and Allectus held the title of emperors ten years, from the power given them by the maritime force of Britain. After this, we find the ſame people raiſing fortreſſes to cover the Ports, on this coaſt eſpecially, from the piracies of the northern nations, and putting into them competent garriſons for their defence, in caſe they proceeded to make any deſcents; which are ſtrong indications of their having a rich, well-cultivated country to protect; and we can conceive no means of its becoming ſo, but from the traffic of its inhabitants, the natural ſource of wealth and proſperity

to

to ſuch people as are ſeated in an iſland. Our Saxon anceſtors, who were the next poſſeſſors of this region, while all its ports were open and in good condition, adopted the ſame maxims, and purſued them with ſuch effect, that Ethelbert king of Kent, extended his dominions from the banks of the Thames to thoſe of the Humber. Himſelf and his ſucceſſors founded, or at leaſt beſtowed names on many great towns, adorned them with ſtately ſtructures, leaving ſuch a variety of monuments of prudence, piety and policy, as inconteſtibly prove their ſubjects muſt have been numerous, induſtrious, and opulent. After the Daniſh wars, felt no-where more ſeverely than in this county, when the Normans came to be quietly ſettled, the people of Kent, retaining their original liberties, their ancient cuſtoms, and their acquired trade, made a great figure. The woollen manufacture being once introduced, throve exceedingly, and ſpread itſelf amongſt them on every ſide. By this, Cranbrook, Aſhford, Sevenoak, Sittingbourn, and many other places, were rendered conſpicuous. But above all Canterbury, which from this, and various other funds of induſtry, maintained its ancient ſplendor, having a guild of merchants, a ſtaple, mint, exchange, and many ſpacious and beautiful markets. The Cinque Ports, enjoying their privileges, were well built, fully inhabited, drove an extenſive commerce, abounded with ſeamen, had many, and for that age ſtout and large, ſhips in conſtant employment. Thus agriculture, handicrafts and trade, being equally and every where diffuſed, mutually ſupported each other; and the people numerous, active and indefatigable, kept up a ſpirit of emulation, from which all parts of the county were in the ſame flouriſhing condition.

" We

"We have no diſtinct account of the time when the firſt attempts were made to gain upon that æſtuary, into which the river Rother, anciently called Limene, diſcharged itſelf into the ſea, between Lydd and Romney. But as there were marſhes there in the time of the Saxons, we have good grounds to believe, that the practice of inning, that is, wreſting land from the river and the ſea, was introduced by their clergy, to whom the property in theſe parts chiefly belonged. By theſe means they at length drove the river into another channel, and built a ſtrong fence, called the Ree, i. e. the river bank, to keep it from ever returning. The archbiſhops of Canterbury looking upon this as an admirable method of improving, left their names to thoſe parcels of the marſh which were procured in their times, whence we read of Becket's, Baldwin's, Boniface's, Peckham's innings; ſo that gradually this tract of level ground ſwelled to an immenſe extent, and, taken altogether, has been computed at upwards of fifty-thouſand acres, all become, in a long courſe of time, from dreary ſickly marſhes, very fine and fruitful meads, affording excellent paſture, and of courſe yielding a high rent; but notwithſtanding this, and though it muſt be acknowledged the greateſt acquiſition of its kind, and under the beſt regulations, yet one may reaſonably queſtion, whether the county of Kent has really reaped from thence thoſe advantages that are commonly believed? For to ſay nothing of the labour theſe ſtupendous banks, drains, guts, &c. have originally coſt; the vaſt expence which the making and keeping them in repair conſtantly demands; the hazard in preſerving that always attends them; the loſſes to which they have often been expoſed; and the unwholeſomeneſs of the air, much greater formerly than at preſent; we will conſider what

what has been abſolutely given up, in order to ſecure this mighty conqueſt.

" Before any of theſe invaſions were made, there ſeems to have been no contention whatever between the ſea and the ſhore. But when once they encroached on that turbulent element, or to ſpeak with greater propriety, diſturbed the ſettled order of nature, they ſoon felt the effects, if we may ſo ſpeak, of its impetuous reſentment. Sometimes it retired from where they meant it ſhould remain; at others it overflowed and waſhed away places grown opulent by its bounty. Here it fretted the ſhore, till it fell in; there it threw up beach and ſand, till a new ſoil was formed, that was equally diſagreeable and uſeleſs. In ſhort, from being the ſource of induſtry and plenty, it grew dangerous and deſtructive. Rye, Winchelſea, Haſtings, Hythe and Romney, with their dependencies, are in a manner totally gone. The ſecond of theſe places has been twice ruined, being once overwhelmed by the fury of thoſe waves, by which it is now abſolutely deſerted. The preſent Winchelſea, raiſed by the wealthy inhabitants of the old town, or rather its remains, appeared ſo majeſtic, even in that ſtate of decay, to queen Elizabeth, who ſaw it not till in this condition, that ſhe could not help calling it *Little London*. Theſe once large, well-built and well-peopled towns, have been brought into the piteous plight they now are, by this conteſt between thoſe obſtinate improvers, and this boiſterous element. In the courſe of the diſpute, though the multitude were for inning, yet ſome more prudent perſons ſaw and proteſted againſt its conſequences; which is the true ſenſe of the old ſaying, " *That Tenterden ſteeple was the occaſion of Goodwin Sands*;" that is, the rents of Romney marſh, which were partly laid out on that ſtructure, aroſe from thoſe encroachments, which produced an inundation

dation about the time the ſteeple was erected; ſoon after which, a vaſt tract in the low countries being ſwallowed up, thoſe ſands firſt appeared. Theſe, hideous and horrid as they are, prove the great defence of the Downs; and, in conjunction with the South and North Forelands, render them a tolerable road, though ſometimes, through the ignorance and careleſsneſs of pilots, more frequently from the fury of ſouth-eaſt or eaſt-north-eaſt winds, ſhips are driven, and of courſe wrecked upon them; which makes ſome ſafe port in their neighbourhood ſo deſirable, and the loſs of thoſe we had on both ſides heretofore ſo much to be regretted.

"In reſpect to that arm of the ſea which divided Kent from Thanet, now turned into firm land, the Abbot's wall, which formerly kept out the flood, the old charters and ſubſequent tenures, clearly ſhew when, how, and by whom, this ſuppoſed improvement was begun, continued and compleated. Beſides the conſtant tradition, and the apparent marks of its once different condition, put all this out of doubt, and, which is more to the purpoſe, ſhew that it was not the declining or deſerting of the ſea, but the continued efforts of men, from the cloſe of the ſixth, to the beginning of the ſixteenth century, uſing all their ſkill to expel it, which produced this amazing change. But here again the queſtion is, what has been got by this alteration, contrived with ſo much deliberation, and proſecuted with ſuch application? The ſens, or ſalts as they are called, are eſteemed unwholeſome, though very fertile; but ſince the loſs of their channel, towns are dwindled to villages, ſome villages to a lonely farm-houſe, ſeveral churches are decayed, others diſuſed, the number of people diminiſhed, and of the many families of gentlemen who formerly reſided in this iſland, and were both the credit and ſupport of it, there is hardly

hardly one left. What is yet ſtronger and ſtranger, the very end aimed at, ſo difficult or rather ſo imprudent a thing it is to contend with nature by force, is by no means accompliſhed. The iſland, in the time of Beda, as is expreſsly delivered in his writings, was twice as big as at preſent, which ancient deeds clearly confirm; and, which is no leſs extraordinary, from Domeſday-book, it appears, Thanet was then of near the ſame ſize that it is now. It is therefore inconteſtible, that preciſely in the ſame period, when the inhabitants of both the Continent and iſle were buſied in making what they thought improvements, by encroaching on the Wantſume on the ſouth and weſt, the ſea was ſilently and effectually making double repriſals, and ſpoiling all their ports at the ſame time on the north and eaſt.

"Beſides all this, in reference to the iſland, conſider the conſequences which this converting ſo capacious a Port into a marſh has had upon the coaſts of Kent. In the original and genuine ſtate of things, the ſouth ſea (in reſpect to Thanet) flowed round the iſle of Richborough up to Sarr, as the North Sea round Regulbium to Sarr likewiſe; and then all the creeks and inlets on this ſide were in the beſt condition poſſible. But as Romney marſh was gained by choaking the æſtuary on one ſide, at the very time they were inning this channel on the other, the motion of the water, thus violently croſſed, and forced into an unnatural, impetuous and contracted ſtate, tore away the chalk and leſſer rocks in ſome places, and threw them up again in others, whence came the new iſle of Stonar, united by the monks to Thanet; the beach all the way from Sandwich to Deal; and the miſchiefs which have happened both to Sandwich and to Dover; with all the diſtreſſing circumſtances which have hitherto defeated every attempt to repair them; and

which

which it is more than probable will continue to have the ſame effect, in ſpite of any weight of back-water which can be brought to ſcour their channels, which, it ſeems, can only be done by the force of the ſea itſelf, or the ſtrength of the ebb, which before theſe encroachments, it is evident ſufficiently anſwered that purpoſe, and would have always anſwered it, but for theſe impediments.

" This deduction of facts and reaſoning, made with all the care and attention poſſible, ſeems to prove, that the benefits ariſing from a maritime ſituation are in reality ſuch as I have repreſented them; that is, they are of all others moſt capable of producing a territory well cultivated, and fully peopled; conſequently are the natural ſources of ſtrength, opulence and grandeur. It ſeems alſo to follow, that their loſs can never be compenſated by an addition of territory, however rich or fertile; becauſe, though this may prove a means of obtaining wealth, it may do this without exciting induſtry; and whenever that happens, how much ſoever individuals thrive, ſociety muſt neceſſarily ſuffer. It is, as has been before obſerved, the conjunction of agriculture, manufactures and commerce, that render the people in any country powerful. As an evidence of this let us obſerve, that in A. D. 1293, in the reign of Edward I. the fleet of the Cinque Ports, conſiſting of one hundred ſail, attacked that of France, compoſed of upwards of two hundred, defeated and deſtroyed them; ſo that, for a ſeaſon, that kingdom was in a manner without ſeamen. This ſhews what the condition of this part of Kent then was. We may from hence alſo infer, the ſtate ought to adopt the Roman policy, and take all havens into her immediate care and protection; regarding at the ſame time whatever reſpects navigation, ſuch as rivers, friths, bays, &c. as belonging inconteſtibly to the public, and therefore not to be touched, much leſs

diverted or deſtroyed, from private caprice, lucre, or reſentment; but to be improved on mature deliberation, for the common benefit, as the ſupreme wiſdom of the nation ſhall direct. Laſtly, it is more than probable no method will be found effectual for recovering the Ports of Rye and Sandwich, till we recur to the principles of nature, and abate the violence of the ſea, by admitting its waters in a full body, allowing them room to ſpread, and depending on the force of the ebb for a back water, which alone has ſtrength enough to keep ports free and open. A ſtep that would not ſimply anſwer the end, in giving us thoſe two important havens, but would alſo either render practicable the retrieving ſome of the reſt, or put it in our power to open new and ſafe harbours in the vicinity of the old.

"If, after all that has been ſaid, any farther arguments ſhould be either neceſſary or expedient, theſe might be copiouſly drawn from the different ſtate of the north-ſide of Kent. Whitſtaple, a place of little conſequence in former times, is now, from its being a kind of port to Canterbury, become a town of briſk trade, and a great deal of buſineſs. Feverſham was indeed of note in early times, but would probably have ſhared the fate of other towns, and ſunk in conſequence of the loſs of its famous abbey, but for its commodious creek, by which it is not barely ſuſtained, but is in a very thriving condition, exporting (when they are plenty) large quantities of oyſters to Holland. The ſame may be affirmed of Milton, and Queenborough in the iſle of Shepey; and if we take in Rocheſter, and its dependencies on the Medway, we may, without injury to truth, aſſert, there come annually from theſe places to London, from ſeven to nine hundred veſſels of all ſizes. To ſay nothing of the coaſt-trade above Graveſend, which, though carried on in ſmall craft, taken altogether is very conſiderable; or the ſhip-building and other naval mannfactures, by which multitudes

multitudes are employed and maintained, in all the great, yet ſtill growing towns on that ſide the Thames. It is to theſe ports chiefly that the obſervations of the wiſe and worthy deſcriber of this Shire is to be referred*, that it enjoyed in perfection thoſe advantages, ſo much commended by the ancients, viz. the vicinity of the ſea, the convenience of a fine river, with the neighbourhood alſo of a great road, and a vaſt city. It is true, that M. Cato ſpeaks loudly in favour of ſuch a ſituation; but then it is in reſpect to a farm; Mr. Lambard is much too humble in applying this to ſo extenſive and noble a county, which was ſome time in name, continued longer ſtill in point of ſtrength, equal to a kingdom; and might moſt certainly become ſo again, if its Ports were thoroughly reſtored, its manufactures revived, and that active ſpirit of induſtry once more awakened, which was the original ſource, and while it ſubſiſted, the ſteady ſupport, of all its priſtine grandeur." Such are the ſentiments of the learned Dr. Campbell.

In Sandwich are three pariſh churches, St. Clement's, St. Mary's, and St. Peter's. There was formerly a fourth in the ſouth-weſt part of the town, dedicated to St. James, but there are no remains of it at preſent. The churchyard is ſtill incloſed, and is uſed for the interment of ſtrangers. St. Clement's church is in the eaſt part of the town, and ſituated upon higher ground than the reſt. It is a large and ancient ſtructure, and much in the Norman ſtyle of architecture; particularly the tower, which is conſiderably older than the reſt of the building. The church conſiſts of a body and two iſles, which are very ſpacious. It was not ceiled till within theſe few years, and has lately been improved and beautified. In the chancel are twenty ancient

* Lambard's Perambulation of Kent, p. 13.

ſtalls, which were uſed by the brotherhood of the church of St. Clement, to whom the corporation uſed to allow ſix ſhillings and eight-pence, for the maintenance of a proceſſion when the image of St. George was yearly carried about the town. The church is a vicarage in the patronage of the archdeacon of Canterbury, and rated in the king's books at 13l. 16s. 10½d. the certified value 77l. 10s. 4d. St. Peter's church is ſituated in the middle of the town. It formerly conſiſted of a body and two iſles, but only the body and the north iſle now remain. In 1661 the ſteeple fell, and beat down with it the ſouth iſle, and a ſmall part of the body of the church. Some of the outer wall is ſtill ſtanding, where are to be ſeen the remains of the handſome monument of Sir John Grove, of Grove-place, in the pariſh of Staple. He built the ſouth-iſle, which is now demoliſhed, at his own expence, about the time of King Henry VI. The church is a rectory, and the right of preſentation is alternately in the Lord Chancellor and corporation* of Sandwich. Its yearly value is 28l. in the king's books 8l. In this church are the bodies of ſeveral eminent perſonages, and founders of chapels and hoſpitals; of whom Thomas Ellis, and Margaret his wife, are diſtinguiſhed for their charitable benefactions; they founded a chantry, and endowed it for the ſupport of three prieſts, &c. In the year 1272, Henry Cowfield, an almain, founded a priory of white friars, called Carmelites. Their houſe was in this pariſh, the foundations of which are now diſcernable in the lands called the Friars. The gate of the

* In the time of Charles I. the corporation's right of preſentation was queſtioned by the crown, but on examining the cuſtomal and other ancient records of the corporation, the lord keeper and attorney general were ſatisfied, and acknowledged the right.

priory

priory opened into Moatſole, and the ſide walls of the avenue leading from thence to the houſe remain to this day. St. Mary's church is at the weſt-end of the town, near the river. It is a loſty building, has no ſteeple, and conſiſts of a large iſle, and a ſmall iſle on the north-ſide. The body contains a ſpacious area, which, with its gallery, renders this church the moſt commodious place of worſhip in Sandwich. The ceiling is of wood, and the chancel elegant. It is a vicarage, of which the archdeacon of Canterbury is proprietor and patron, value 40l. in the king's books 8l. 1s. 0½. The foundation of this church appears to be very ancient, for it is ſaid to have been burnt by the Danes in 1009, and rebuilt by Emma, queen to Etheldred II. and Canute the Great. It was afterwards deſtroyed by the French, in the reign of Richard II. and was rebuilt by Sir William Leverick, of Aſh, who, with Emma his wife, were buried in the north-ſide of the body of the church, in an arched ſepulchre, in the wall. In this church, as well as in St. Peter's, was a chantry founded by Thomas Ellys, and endowed with lands for the maintenance of three prieſts, who were to celebrate divine ſervice every day, for the good of his own ſoul, and the ſouls of his parents, his anceſtors and benefactors. Beſides theſe chantries, there were in this town two hermitages, one in the pariſh of St. James, and the other in St. Mary's. The laſt hermit which belonged to the former pariſh was one John Steward, who, on the ſuppreſſion of religious houſes, was appointed to the vicarage of St. Mary.

On the weſt-ſide of the town is a free grammar ſchool, for the inſtruction of the ſons of freemen. It was founded by Sir Roger Manwood, in 1563. Sir Roger was a native of Sandwich, and lord chief baron of the exchequer in the reign of queen Elizabeth. It is ſuppoſed to have been built

on the ſpot where formerly was a nunnery, which was deſtroyed by the French when they burnt St. Mary's church. Some part of the materials were probably applied to the building of this ſchool. It was endowed by Robert Trapes, and his wife, with the privilege of ſending two ſcholars to Lincoln college, Oxford. The maſter of the ſchool is generally the reſident miniſter of St. Mary's church, and is allowed a ſalary of about 30l. a year. There is likewiſe in this town a ſchool for the inſtruction of 30 poor boys and as many girls, ſupported by ſubſcription. The maſter and miſtreſs are allowed 20l. a year each. The maſter of this charity-ſchool has alſo the care of what is called the town-ſchool, eſtabliſhed for the education of ſix boys, by David Turner, who demiſed three tenements for that purpoſe. There are three hoſpitals belonging to Sandwich, the principal of which is Saint Bartholomew's, ſituated about a furlong without the town. It is encloſed with a ſtone wall, in which, on the ſide next the road, is a large gate. Within the wall is a ſtone chapel, and ſixteen convenient tenements for the uſe of the brethren and ſiſters, who are generally widows and decayed tradeſmen. To each houſe is annexed a ſmall garden. Every member is allowed wood and ſtubble for firing, and receives about 18l. annually.—Divine ſervice is performed in the chapel once a year, on the feaſt of St. Bartholomew, when an anniverſary ſermon is preached on the occaſion. The founders of this houſe were Thomas Cromphorn and Matilda his wife, of the ancient family of De Sandwich. It was eſtabliſhed about the year 1190, and in 1349, Edward III. at the requeſt of John Gybonn, granted to this hoſpital the profits of a ferry into the iſle of Thanet. By a patent in the 16th year of Richard II. 1693, it appears, that this hoſpital was appropriated for 12 perſons, and was endowed with one

one meſſuage, and 132 acres of land in the pariſh of Woodneſborough. The profits of the ferry were farmed at the yearly rent of 62l. ſterling, which annual ſum, on the building of a bridge over the river Stour, was allotted by Parliament to be paid to the maſter, brothers, and ſiſters of the ſaid hoſpital, out of the monies ariſing from the tolls of the bridge. The mayor and jurats of the town of Sandwich were appointed its governors, and all vacancies are filled up by the mayor for the time being.

The other two hoſpitals are near the corn-market; one of which is dedicated to St. Thomas, and the other to St. John the baptiſt. They are ſaid to have been founded by Thomas Ellys, in the year 1400; but this is a miſtake.—The hoſpital or houſe of St. John the Baptiſt, is of a more ancient foundation. In a charter dated anno decimo ſexto Edward II. Filii Henrici III. Angliæ regis, that is, in 1287, the brothers and ſiſters of the houſe of God and Saint John in Sandwich are mentioned. Thomas Ellys might afterwards have made ſome conſiderable additions to the building or endowments, and from thence derived the title of founder. In St. Thomas's hoſpital, 12 poor perſons are allowed about 10l. a year each, with an apartment. St. John's hoſpital ſupports ſix only, who are paid annually four pounds each. All the vacancies in the former are filled by feoffees, and thoſe in the latter by the mayor. St. John's houſe was a poor endowment from the beginning. Diſtreſſed and infirm travellers were relieved and entertained in it. Cloaths and bedding were provided for them; and if they died, they were buried at the expence of the hoſpital. Certain of the brothers aſked alms every Sunday, in the churches within the town, to buy meat for their Sunday's dinner. Another brother was aſſigned to beg fiſh of the fiſhermen. Another was ſent out with an

aſs,

aſs, begging within the county of Kent, who ſometimes would render clear to the hoſpital, above his expences, one mark, and frequently ten ſhillings. They were allowed all forfeitures of fiſh and fleſh, incurred by breach of the ordinances of the town of Sandwich, and all hogs running about the ſtreets, and all kind of fowls found ſwimming in the Delph. They had likewiſe the advantage of keeping a ſtandard buſhel, by which ſtrangers might aſcertain the goodneſs of their meaſures.

The river is now about thirty yards broad at high water, over which travellers, horſes and carriages, were conveyed in a flat-bottom boat. A guard was anciently placed there for the ſecurity of this paſſage. But in the year 1756, in the mayoralty of Solomon Ferrier, eſq; the preſent bridge was begun; and finiſhed in the following year. Large contributions were raiſed for carrying on the work. John Cleveland and Claudius Amyand, eſqrs. who were at that time members in parliament for this ancient Cinque Port, ſubſcribed 250l. each. In 1757, lord viſcount Conyngham, who ſerved in parliament for the town, gave towards it 550l. Doctor Hay, a ſucceeding repreſentative, contributed 300l. and Sir George Oxenden 100l. The bridge is built with ſtone, having an arch on each ſide, and a paſſage between for the larger veſſels, that uſe this port. The middle arch is wood, divided into two parts, which are hung nearly in an equilibrium, by which means they are eaſily drawn up or let down. The paſſage over the ſtone part of the bridge is ſecured by a parapet wall on each ſide, and the wooden arch by Chineſe rails. It is a work of conſiderable utility, not only to the inhabitants of Sandwich and the iſle of Thanet, but to the eaſtern part of the county of Kent, and the public in general; the ferry having been very inconvenient and dangerous, and no ſmall obſtruction to trade.

The

The ſtreets of Sandwich are narrow and irregular. Strand-ſtreet, which reaches from weſt to eaſt, might have been made a commodious thoroughfare; but at preſent is broken into many diſagreeable angles. High-ſtreet, Fiſher's-ſtreet, and Delph-ſtreet, are the broadeſt and moſt airy, in which are ſeveral good houſes. Here is a handſome ſquare called the fiſh-market, which conſiſts principally of ſhops; but the avenues leading to it are indifferent, excepting that from the Corn-market, which is another ſquare, much larger than the former, but inferior to it with reſpect to the buildings. In 1787, an act for new paving, lighting, &c. the town was obtained. Near the weſt ſide of the ſquare is the town-hall, which is a very ancient ſtructure. All public buſineſs is tranſacted in the lower court; over which is the council chamber. Sandwich claims juriſdiction over Deal, Ramſgate, Fordwich, Sarre, and Brightlingſea in Eſſex, which are members of this Cinque Port. It uſed to furniſh five ſhips compleat for ſervice. This town was anciently incorporated by the name of the barons of the town and port of Sandwich; but at preſent it is incorporated by the name of the mayor, jurats and commonalty. It ſends two members to parliament, who ſtill retain the ancient name of barons of the Cinque Port of Sandwich. The freemen of the Cinque Ports have the privilege of ſending a certain number of their own members to ſupport the royal canopy at a coronation. Beſides the mayor, there are twelve jurats, and twenty-four common-councilmen, a town-clerk, two treaſurers, and other inferior officers. The mayor is elected on the Monday following the feaſt of St, Andrew, when every elector, after having given his vote, receives one ſhilling. Till the year 1683, the mayors were always elected in St. Clement's church. When any buſineſs is to be tranſacted

in

in the town-hall, the freemen are ſummoned to appear by the ſound of a brazen-horn, which is of great antiquity, and is blown by the town cryer, early in the morning, at different parts of the town. The legitimate children of freemen, whether male or female, born within the liberties, are free; and every alien marrying a free woman has a right to the freedom of this Port. The trade of this town chiefly conſiſts in coal, fir timber, deals, &c. with which the country is ſupplied. Here alſo are ſhipped corn, malt, fruit, and ſeeds, for London and other markets. The ſeeds raiſed from this ſoil are in much repute.

Sandwich receives 200l. a year from the truſtees of Ramſgate pier, in order to cleanſe the harbour from any nuiſance occaſioned thereby. The town is for the moſt part ſupplied with water from a narrow ſtream called the Delph, which runs through it. Here is a market on Wedneſdays and Saturdays, and a fair on the 4th of December, which continues two days. The ſhrimps which are caught near this town are remarkably excellent. There are ſeveral good inns in Sandwich, and many wealthy inhabitants. Here is alſo a large and elegant aſſembly room, which has been built within theſe few years. Since the conſtruction of the bridge, and the reſort to Margate as a bathing-place, the town has been more frequently viſited by ſtrangers; a tour from thence to Sandwich, Deal, Dover, &c. being a pleaſant and agreeable excurſion*.

About a mile from Sandwich, at a ſmall diſtance from the road which leads to Dover, is the village of Wodneſborough; the church contains memorials of the Paramour and Heyre families. Near the church is a remarkable emi-

* A collection of many valuable articles relative to the ancient and preſent ſtate of the town and port of Sandwich, was publiſhed in 1792, by that able and curious antiquary, Wm. Boys, eſq. F. S. A.

nence,

nence, ſuppoſed to have been raiſed by the Saxons as a pedeſtal for their idol Woden, which ſtood upon it, and from which the place derives its name. About half a mile from hence, is the little village of Eaſtry, which muſt have been a place of ſome diſtinction, and the reſidence of ſome of the Saxon kings of Kent. The church is a large building, and ſome part of it very ancient; in the chancel are eight ſtalls, which were occupied by ſome religious fraternity, of whom there remains no memorial. Here is a large cattle fair on the 2d of October. About three miles from Sandwich, and half a mile to the left of the road, is the village of Northbourn. In the time of Henry VIII. here were ruins of an old ſtone building, ſaid to have been king Egbert's palace. Leland ſays, in breaking down a wall, a dark cell was diſcovered, in which were the ſkeletons of two children, one of which had a large pin ſtuck through its ſcull. From which diſcovery it has been imagined, that the young kinſmen of the tyrant Egbert reſided here, and were murdered at this reſidence, inſtead of Eaſtry, as is recorded.

South of Sandwich, as we go along upon the ſea-ſhore, are ſix large and broad celtic tumuli, equidiſtant; the ſecond from the town has been dug away, to raiſe a little fort upon the road; they all ſtand in a line eaſt and weſt*. This

* There are a great number of large barrows about Sandwich; one at Winſborough, with a tree upon it; ſo it is called by the vulgar, but the learned make it Woodneſborough; between that and Sandwich is another, called Marvil hill.

Sandwich might eaſily be made the beſt harbour on this coaſt, but cutting a new channel for the river about a mile and a half through the ſand hills ſouth eaſterly; for the water of the river Stour would ſufficiently ſcour it, did it run ſtrait, and with that direction. This town likewiſe might be mace very ſtrong; for, beſides the river Stour, another rivulet runs through it, that would keep the ditches always full.

flat

flat coaſt is fenced againſt the ocean by the ſand-downs, which in Lincolnſhire are called meals; but within the memory of man, the ſea has commenced a new method of guarding againſt its own violence, by covering the ſhore, for a great depth and height, with the pebbles before mentioned; which is an odd mutation in nature; and it is obſervable that theſe pebbles come from the ſouth. The road from Sandwich as far as Hythe lies near the brink of the cliff, in ſight of France almoſt all the way, and in the ſummer time, when the days are ſerene and calm, the beauty of the proſpect is beyond expreſſion. Much ſea *tithymal* grows here, and a very pretty plant, *papaver cornutum flore luteo*, rock ſamphire feeding upon *petroleum*, a moſt excellent pickle, and many more. From theſe cliffs the murmur of the ocean has a noble ſolemnity in it, as Homar ſays, when latiniſed:

Eructante ſalo raucam dant litora vocem.

——— with awful roar
The hoarſe reſoundings laſh the ſhore.

More copiouſly expreſſed in Virgil,

Et gemitum ingentem pelagi, pulſataque ſaxa,
Audimus longe, fractaſque ad litora voces,
Exultantque vada, atque æſtu miſcentur arenæ

Æn. iii.

Far off we hear the waves, with ſurly ſound,
Invade the rocks, the rocks their groans rebound,
The billows break upon the ſounding ſtrand,
And roll the riſing tide impure with ſand.

Dryden.

Which is an exact idea of this place. By liſtening attentively we may obſerve this noiſe of the ocean is by fits, at ſhort but equal intervals, which gave occaſion to that fancy of

of the ancients, that every tenth wave was the largeſt; of which Ovid has a diſtich.

Sandown caſtle is compoſed of four lunettes of very thick arched work of ſtone, with many port-holes for great guns; in the middle is a great round tower, with a ciſtern at top; underneath an arched cavern, bomb proof; a foſs encompaſſes the whole, to which there is a paſſage over a draw-bridge. Deal caſtle and Walmer caſtle are of the ſame nature, all built by Henry VIII. to guard this naked level coaſt; moreover, lines are drawn along between caſtle and caſtle, and at proper intervals round baſtions with a ditch and parapet of earth, where cannon may be planted as in the infancy of fortification. Theſe are what Camden calls Rome's works, and fancies to be the remnants of Cæſar's ſhip camp; the neighbours with as little truth affirm they were thrown up by Oliver Cromwell, for reduction of theſe caſtles; one is cloſe by the north ſide of Deal, and two between Deal caſtle and Walmer caſtle. At Walmer caſtle the cliff begins for about half a mile ſouthward with a gentle riſe to a hill, whereon is a tumulus; then the ſhore is plain again in a valley till we come to Ring's-wold, which is half a mile's ſpace. Between Walmer caſtle and Deal is the ſpot where Cæſar landed in his firſt expedition, becauſe it is the firſt place where the ſhore can be aſcended north of Dover, and exactly anſwers his aſſigned diſtance of eight miles; probably in his ſecond expedition, when he came with many more ſhips and men, and had a perfect knowledge of the country, he went a little farther in the Downs. As for his ſea-camps, it is vain to expect a ſight of them; they are many ages been abſorbed by the ocean, which has ſo long been exerciſing its power, and waſting the land away. Even ſince Henry the VIIIth's time it has

carried off the ſea-ward *eſplanades* of the three caſtles, and one half of two of the three circular forts. Indeed, of late years, the providential ejectment of thoſe pebbles has put a ſtop to it in ſome meaſure; and it is amazing to ſee how it by degrees fills up theſe foſſes and trenches, and ſometimes flies over the banks a good way up into the land, with a power well expreſſed by the poet,

Aut vaga cum Tethys Rutupinaque litora fervent.

Lucan. vi.

The town of Deal is about five miles ſouth-weſt of Sandwich; it is pretty large, has a market on Wedneſdays and Saturdays, and two fairs annually, on the 5th of April, and 10th of October. It is divided into Upper and Lower Deal; the former is the moſt ancient, the latter having had its exiſtence from the encreaſe of trade. The trade of the inhabitants chiefly conſiſts in ſupplying the ſhips which rendezvous in the Downs. It is ſeated near the ſea; has a church, a chapel, about 1000 houſes, which are moſtly low and built with bricks; theſe form three long but narrow ſtreets; the inhabitants amount to about 4500. Deal is a member of the port of Sandwich, and is governed by a mayor and jurats, ſubordinate to that town.

Between Deal and the Goodwin-ſands are the Downs, much frequented by the royal navy, and by merchant ſhips, yet they are expoſed to conſiderable danger, from the ſtorms which often happen on this coaſt; nor has any remedy been provided againſt this evil. An attempt has been made at Ramſgate, but the project is too ill-concerted to anſwer any end.* The flat ſhore between Sandwich and Deal,

* The very great expence and the inconveniences attending the works at Ramſgate, for ſome years, juſtified this aſſertion; but ſubſequent improvements, and the additions making to the pier, when completed, it is preſumed will be found of much public benefit to the trade, if not to the

royal

nature ſeems to have deſigned for a ſafe harbour for ſhips in diſtreſs. A work of this kind has been attempted more than once; particularly in 1744, when a propoſal was publiſhed for conſtructing a harbour between the town of Sandwich and Sandown caſtle. The gentlemen who ſupported this deſign applied to Parliament for aſſiſtance, the petition was preſented by Mr. Fane, and although it appeared very evident to the houſe, that a harbour in this ſituation would prove of the utmoſt utility, yet the ſcheme was rendered abortive, by paſſing an act for eſtabliſhing a harbour at Ramſgate.

The late Mr. Smeaton, upon the ſuperior advantages of an harbour at Ramſgate, in preference to one conſtructed at Sandown, after an examination of the evidence in the committee's report, obſerves: "That the tides, the ſands, and the coaſts remaining the ſame, as alſo the natural powers, what was true in 1749, will remain true of thoſe in the year 1791. During the whole of this inveſtigation, the great project of an harbour at Sandown caſtle, ſeems to have been altogether loſt ſight of; and perhaps at this we may the leſs marvel, by caſting our eye upon its poſition, as laid down in the map of the Downs; for veſſels breaking looſe from their anchors there, with the wind at any point, from S. S. E. to S. S. W. would be driven to the leeward of the harbour's mouth before they could get under way, ſo as to be under dominion of their helm; and therefore, after all, would be liable to be wrecked, or run aſhore upon the ſouth coaſt of the iſle of Thanet. Nor indeed, according to my judgment, could a more *injudicious*

royal navy, of Great Britain. Ramſgate harbour is now (1793) capable of receiving ſhips of 500 tons burthen; and it is aſſerted, that more than four fifths of all the tonnage and value of ſhipping is carried on in veſſels not exceeding 300 tons.

conſtruction than the piers propoſed at Sandown be well imagined; for the heavy ſeas that would fall in between the heads (that is, all thoſe producing diſtreſs in the Downs) would be ſo augmented by the gradual contraction of the diſtance of the piers, from 300 feet at their entry, to 100 feet near the baſon, that veſſels would not only be liable to be wrecked between the piers, but thoſe augmented ſeas would infallibly deſtroy the gates of the baſon, and probably the fixed part of the ſtone-work alſo. Hence it appears moſt evident, that nature has not, in reality, furniſhed any ſituation for an harbour for the Downs, *preferable* to that at Ramſgate; and therefore we need not wonder, that the project of ſuch a long-wiſhed-for harbour, was at that time urged in favour of Ramſgate, with a degree of eagerneſs, and even of enthuſiaſm."

At Deal caſtle is a very good well, though cloſe by the ſea. Our journey now lies upon the edge of the cliffs, whoſe tremendous height, with the noble proſpect at ſea, and moſt awful roaring of the waves, fills the mind with a ſenſe of nature's majeſty. About St. Margaret's on Cliff, in two places, are a great number of tumuli, of unequal bulk, cloſe by one another, like thoſe about Barham Down, and between Hardres* and Chilham, and other places.

Dover is a moſt romantic ſituation; it is ſituated at the end of a great valley, and the only one about this coaſt where water is admitted inwards of the cliff, here very

* At Hardres place, the ſeat of the late Sir William Hardres, lay king Henry VIII. when going upon his expedition againſt Boulogne, he left his picture there, and an old dagger, very broad, and about as long as a Roman ſword, the handle is of ſilver gilt, enamelled with mottos on it. The old gates of this ſeat were the gates of Boulogne, brought thence at that ſiege by ſir William's anceſtor, who accompanied the king.

high;

high; and a running brook diſcharges itſelf into the ſea †; the water formerly came a good way higher up, and made a large port; and they have found anchors above the town. The Roman city of *Dubris* was to the ſouth of the river, the Watling-ſtreet enters it at Bigin gate, coming ſtrait from Canterbury over Barham Down, where it is very perfect, butting directly upon the great tower of the cathedral; it bears a little more northerly than north-weſt. This city was an oblong ſquare, and ſome of the walls are left; the churches are of a very antique make; that of St Martin is collegiate, founded by Wightred king of Kent; it is a venerable ruin; the eaſt end ſeems to have terminated in three ſemi-circular works; it was built in form of a croſs, as to its main body. Much remains of the priory, now a farm-houſe. The *maiſon dieu* over againſt it is become a ſtore-houſe; here the knights hoſpitallers or templars lodged, coming into, or going out of, the kingdom. The piers that form the haven, or large baſon, are coſtly and great works; above is a fort of four baſtions of modern date. The broad beach which lies at the mouth of this great valley, and was the harbour in Cæſar's time, is very delightful; it is no little part of the diverſion, in walking there, to obſerve the odd produce of the ocean thrown up under your feet, and the ſea-plants that grow there; the *umbelli*, *ſtar-fiſhes*, many curious foſſils and ſhells; the *eringo*, *ſea-lung*, *ſea-weed*, or *ood* as called here, &c. One long ſtreet is named Snar-gate, from the moſt tremendous rocks of chalk hanging directly over the houſes; as Knarſborough in Yorkſhire, ſays Mr. Camden, vol. iii, p. 8.

† By St. Margaret's are many natural cavities in the chalk cliffs, and an admirable large ſpring ariſing from the beach with great force when the tide is out.

The caſtle is the ſtrongeſt place in the world, of old fortification; it takes up near thirty acres of ground; it is an amazing heap of embattled walls, towers, dikes, and mounts, conſtructed for its defence; encreaſed during the late wars by the addition of ſeveral batteries, and all imaginable contrivances to render it impregnable after the old mode; but with the higheſt regret we behold this moſt noble and memorable fortreſs, once thought the key of Britain, and that has divers times had the honour to ſave the kingdom from conqueſt and ſlavery, now become a common prey to the people who belong to it; in the late wars with France they kept 1500 priſoners in the great caſtle; but of late years they have carried away the timbers and floors, diſabling it even for that uſe. The braſs gun called Queen Elizabeth's pocket-piſtol, is a great curioſity, 24 feet long; it requires 15 pounds of powder, and is ſaid to carry a ball ſeven miles; it is excellently wrought. From the ſouth ſide of the caſtle, where the cliff meaſures 320 feet in perpendicular height, the coaſt of France, and the church of Calais are, in a clear day, plainly viſible to the naked eye. From the ſummit of this cliff, near the platform, on which the long-gun is mounted, Monſ. Blanchard and Dr. Jeffries, on Jan. 7, 1785, were launched, ſuſpended to a balloon, and reached the oppoſite coaſt of France in two hours and 12 minutes after their departure. Here are two old keys and a braſs horn, which ſeem to be the enſigns of authority belonging to the conſtable of the caſtle, or lord warden of the Cinque Ports. One part of the fortifications conſiſts of a large circular work, in which ſtands the old church, ſuppoſed to have been built by Lucius, an ancient king of the Britons, and firſt chriſtian. Biſhop Stillingfleet thinks he is no romantic perſon, but reigned in Kent and Suſſex; however that be, this church

ſeems

ſeems as ancient as the time aſſigned him. There is not much doubt to be made, that upon this hill was a *caſtrum* of the Romans, like that at Richborough, to guard this haven. It is ſomewhat ſurprizing that our Saxon anceſtors ſhould take great pains to demoliſh Roman works, though they wanted ſuch in the ſame places, and were forced to build them again. We may look upon this as an argument that they had no thoughts of conquering the iſland at firſt, and deſtroyed theſe bulwarks that ſuch might not hinder their depredations; but eſpying the nakedneſs of the land, thoroughly evacuated of its youth and men of arms by the Romans, they found a conqueſt practicable; then were they obliged to repair theſe caſtles. The church we are ſpeaking of was built, in the firſt times of chriſtianity, out of part of the Roman ruins, whence there are huge quantities of Roman bricks laid into the work; the arches are entirely turned with them; the corners and many parts, both within and without, are built up therewith; and the remainder is of ſtone originally cut by the Romans; it is in form of a croſs, and has a ſquare tower in the middle. The ſtone windows of this church are of later date than the building; they have been put in long ſince; but the greateſt curioſity here is the *Pharos* or Roman watch-tower, ſtanding at the weſt end of the church; notwithſtanding it is ſo much diſfigured by new daubing with morter, caſing and mending, we may eaſily diſcover its primary intention.

According to Harris, this caſtle contains 35 acres of ground, and was built by Julius Cæſar; but he ſtaid here ſo little a while, and was ſo warmly engaged by the Britons, that he could have neither time nor leiſure for ſuch a work; however, the Roman bricks, of which many may ſtill be ſeen about it, ſhew it muſt have been built during the time of their continuance here; and perhaps ſome watch-tower

might

might have been built there ſoon after Julius Cæſar's time, probably by the Britons. It was formerly thought to be a place of the greateſt importance. Matthew Paris, who lived in the reign of king Henry III, calls it, *clavis et repagulum totius regni*, and no doubt king William I. thought it ſo too, for when he agreed with Harold of Normandy that he ſhould put him into the poſſeſſion of the crown of England after king Edward the Confeſſor's death, in order thereunto he ſtipulated with him that he ſhould deliver up to him Dover caſtle with the well that was therein. King Stephen, in the contention that there was between him and Maud, the empreſs, about the title to the crown of England, thought nothing would be of more ſervice to him than to get this caſtle into his poſſeſſion; and thus alſo when Lewis the Dauphin of France, in king John's time, came hither at the inſtigation of the Pope, and by the invitation of the nobility, to invade this kingdom, and had partly through fear, and partly through the treachery of the barons, moſt of the caſtles and forts in the ſouth of England delivered up to him, yet he did not think himſelf ſafe, becauſe he had not poſſeſſion of this caſtle of Dover; and king Philip, his father, ſwore by St. James's arm, that unleſs he had this, he had not gained a foot of land in England; hither therefore he came with all his might and power, and beſieged it cloſely and vigorouſly, cutting a trench from the poſtern gate right down to the river which hath ſince been called the Port Dyke, but Hubert de Burgh, earl of Kent, chief Juſticiary of England, Warden of the Ports and conſtable of this caſtle, defended it ſo bravely that the French were forced to raiſe the ſiege and, as Lambard obſerves, the delivery of this land from foreign ſervitude at that time was entirely owing to the valour and conduct of this gallant and great earl of Kent; and to

give

give one inſtance more of the importance of this caſtle in the opinion of our anceſtors, Matthew Paris tells us, that when king Henry III. invited his own brother, Richard earl of Cornwall, then king of the Romans, to come and ſee him and to viſit alſo his lands here, the barons would neither let him nor the king who came hither to meet him enter into this caſtle, nor any of their retinue, ſo jealous were they of a place of ſuch ſtrength being in the hands of the king or his friends. Below the caſtle, under the ſteepeſt cliff near the ſea is a ſtrong fort built, as is alſo another oppoſite to it on the weſtern ſide of the harbour. In 1580, April 6, an earthquake was felt here, which threw down a piece of the cliff, with part of the caſtle ſtanding on it next the ſea. In 1756 the caſtle was repaired, and there are barrack for 3000 men. And in 1778, on the breaking out of the diſpute between England and France, relative to the American colonies, its ſtrength was encreaſed by the addition of ſeveral pieces of heavy cannon. A ſhort hiſtory of this caſtle, in a letter to a friend, was publiſhed in 1787, which will be found well worthy of peruſal by the curious traveller.

In the year 1779, three new batteries were erected for the additional defence of this town and port. They are made of earth, agreeable to the modern method of fortification, under the direction of Capt. (now Sir Thomas Hyde) Page, Engineer.

The upper battery, on the Parade, contains one mortar, ſeven thirty-two and five eighteen pounders; the middle battery, on the north pier-head, one mortar, three thirty-two, and four eighteen pounders; the lower battery, near the ſouth pier-head, one mortar, ſix thirty-two pounders, and three eighteen pounders; Moats bulwark, which is ſituated under the caſtle, contains ſeven eighteen pounders;

Archcliff

Archcliff fort, at the ſouth-weſt part of the town, ſeven eighteen pounders; all iron ordinance. A magazine and guard houſe are built in the upper battery, to mount an officer's guard; and the other batteries have each a room for a ſergeant's guard.

On the high cliff oppoſite to this, beyond the town, has been another *Phares*; ſome parts toward the bottom of it is ſtill left, called the Devil's Drop, from the ſtrength of the morter; others call it Bredonſtone. On theſe heights, in 1778 and 1779, two guard houſes were built, defended by ramparts and lines of modern defence, extended a conſiderable diſtance over the adjacent hills; but the peace which ſoon after ſucceeded put a total ſtop to the works, and the whole is now falling to decay. Here the new conſtable of the caſtle uſed to be ſworn. If we conſider the ancient ſtate of Dover, we muſt imagine that the little river ran directly into the ſea, and left a harbour cloſe at the walls of the town; but in proceſs of time, as the ſea threw up that vaſt beach which lies between the town and it, the river was forced by an oblique paſſage to creep along the ſhore under the ſouthern cliff, and there vent itſelf where now is the harbour.

Dover lies at the eaſt part of Kent adjoining to the ſea, and about ſeven miles north eaſtward from Folkſtone, in the Bailiwick of Stouting, Lath of St. Auguſtine, and Eaſt Diviſion of the county. It was incorporated by the name of the Mayor, Jnrats and Commonalty of the town and port of Dover (and before that by the name of the Barons of the town and port of Dover) in the reign of King Edward III; their Common Seal hath on one ſide a ſhip, and on the other a man, who, perhaps, is St. Martin, riding out of port, with another following him on foot. Dover was ſo eminent in Edward the Confeſſor's time, that, by

Domeſday

Domeſday Book, it appears of ability to arm 20 veſſels and to maintain them at ſea for fifteen days together in the king's ſervice, each ſhip carrying 21 able men; and for this ſervice the king not only granted to the inhabitants a free toll and many other privileges, but alſo pardoned them all manner of ſuit and ſervice to any courts whatſoever. St. Mary's church was built by the prior and convent of St. Martin here, and by them was given to the town, but the advowſon thereof was given to Hubert de Burgh, the founder of the Maiſon Dieu here, and he afterwards gave it to that hoſpital. It is now in the inhabitants. The church of St. James did anciently belong to the caſtle of Dover, and in it to this day the courts of Chancery and Admiralty for all the five ports, the two ancient towns, and their members are uſually choſen. St. Martin's was reckoned the mother church, and was called St. Martin Legrand, and by king Henry I. was given to the church of Canterbury. It had ſuch a ſuperiority over the other churches and chapels in Dover, that no one of them might ſing maſs till St. Martin's prieſt had begun, and all annual penſions were paid, and all offerings almoſt made at this famous church. Dover was without doubt a port in the time of the Romans, as appears by the Itinerary of Antoninus, and hath continued ſo through the Saxon, Daniſh, and Norman ages, unto this preſent; Kilburn ſays, that before king Arviragus ſtopped up the haven the town ſtretched itſelf more to the eaſtward under the caſtle than it doth now, but after that it was much built on the ſouth-weſt ſide. The town was once well walled from a place called Mansfield corner to Peer gate, from thence to Upwall, Cow-gate, Begin-gate, and ſo along by St. Mary's church-yard to the river, and by ſome old manuſcript at Sandwich, it is ſaid to have been done by the em-

peror

peror Severus, by the tower records, Dors. pro An. 17. E. 2. p. 1. m. 16. There were then 21 wards in Dover, each of which was to find a ſhip for 40 days at their own charge for the king's uſe, in conſideration of which each ward had thence a licenſed packet boat, which was called a a paſſenger, to carry or fetch perſons over to and from France, and from Whitſand to Dover, the price for a ſingle perſon was 6d. in ſummer, and 1s. in winter, A. D. 1213, in the houſe of the Knights Templars (ſays Stow) was concluded that infamous agreement between king John and Pandulfus, the Pope's legate; whereby that unhappy prince was by ſome meaſure forced to ſurrender his crown to the pope. Here alſo, A. D. 1216, was king John himſelf when Lewis the Dauphin landed at Stonar by Sandwich, but his army being moſt of them foreigners would not oppoſe Lewis, ſo the king was forced to retire, and Lewis marched to Canterbury, and after that had all the caſtles or ſtrong places delivered up to him, except Dover caſtle, which in July following he beſieged, but in vain, not being able to take it. A. D. 1520, the emperor Charles V. landed here, and was met at this place by king Henry VIII, after which they rode to Canterbury, and there kept their Whitſuntide together. It appears by the Dering Manuſcripts, that King Henry VIII. laid out here above 80,000l. in the work of the famous pier at Dover, making a bulwark which ran from Arcliffe far out into the ſea eaſtward; the pier was begun in 1533, and was compiled of two rows of main poſts and great piles of 25 and 26 feet in length, which were let into the holes hewn in the rocks below, and ſome of them were ſhod with iron and driven down into the chalky ground; the poſts and piles were faſtened together with iron bands and bolts, &c. and then all were filled up with great chalk ſtones, beach, &c. but the

bottom

bottom were great rocks of ſtone of 20 tons apiece, which were brought hither on frames of timber ſupported by empty caſks, &c. on the water at a ſmall expence, and by the contrivance of one John Young, to whom the king gave a yearly ſtipend for his device; the chalk-ſtones, &c. to fill up the pier were brought from the north-eaſt ſide in a great boat called Goboth, which had nine keels. The king encouraged this work, and gave towards it above 50,000l. and was ſeveral times in perſon to view it; but afterwards his abſence at the ſiege of Bologne, his ſickneſs at his return, his dying, and his ſon's non-age, put a ſtop to, and at laſt expoſed to decay and ruin this noble work: Queen Mary indeed attempted to carry it on again, but neither the officers nor the workmen being well-paid, it came to nothing, and in proceſs of time the ſea brought great quantities of beach again upon it, eſpecially about a fort called the Black Bulwark, that it drove quite through the piles and choaked up the harbour, making a ſhelf of beach from thence eaſterly to the bottom of the cliff called Caſtle Ray; and this ruin of the pier continually increaſed, both by the neglect of repairing it, and alſo by the poor people ſtealing the wood and iron, &c. from it almoſt every night; the ſhelf alſo grew worſe and worſe every day, and there was no getting over it but in that place where the river coming down from the town forced a paſſage into the ſea, or till they had dug a channel through it; this, and the loſs of Calais about the ſame time, ſoon brought Dover to decay; at length this ſhelf became of itſelf a kind of defence againſt the ſea, and if ſhips could have got ſafe within it they might have rode there as ſafely; in order to effect this, ſeveral projects were formed, and Queen Elizabeth gave to the town the free tranſportation of 30,000 quarters of wheat, 10,000 quarters of barley and malt, and 40,000

tons of beer; one Ferdinando Poins, who underſtood the works of the low countries, and who had been much employed in ſtopping up breaches about Woolwich and Erith, was engaged in the affair; he undertook to make certain knocks or groins, which ſhould make ſuch a depth of water, that the harbour ſhould be quite dry at low water, ſo that a wall might be built of 120 rods in length from above the water gate to near the Caſtle Ray, running within the ſhelf of the beach directly towards the end of the pier; and at the end of this long wall another, of about 40 rods long, was to be placed acroſs it, reaching to the ſhore at the northern cliff. In order to begin this work, which ſeemed very difficult, Poins had 1000l. ordered him by the Commiſſioners, and after that he had 200l. more; he made two groins and got a good depth of water at the harbour's mouth, but it was thought that he charged as much again as he need have done for his work; however, it was concluded nothing could be effectually done to ſecure the harbour without ſuch kind of walls as propoſed, the only queſtion was, how, and with what they ſhould be made; Poins ſaid they might be made well enough with ooze and beach; Pen and Baker, two ſkilful ſhipwrights, propoſed a wooden wall, and gave in a model of ſuch a building, but this was judged both inſufficient and too chargeable, and had not been tried any where; Sir Thomas Scot propoſed doing it as the wall againſt the ſea is done in Romney marſh, and after a great deal of enquiry, and long conſideration, the Romney marſh men undertook the work, ſo that James Hales was made treaſurer, John Smith, expenditor, and ——— Diggs, eſq. ſurveyor, and all under the direction of Sir Thomas Scot.—The work was begun in May 1583, the walls ere made of earth, chalk in the middle, and ſleech on the outſides, and lined with faggots. Henry Gilford

Gilford, eſq. captain of Arcliffe caſtle, was very induſtrious in promoting this work. Sir Thomas Scot undertook the long wall, Richard Bury, eſq. Lieutenant of Dover caſtle, the croſs-wall; the croſs-wall was made 90 feet broad in the bottom, 50 feet in the top, and 40 yards long: The long wall 70 at bottom, near 40 at top, and 120 rods long.

Wonderful application and dexterity was uſed in this work, ſo that in leſs than three months the whole perimeter, as they call it, or incluſion of the harbour, was finiſhed, and was ſo tight that it had no leaks at all, and continued ſo for three years, and then at quarter flood a ſhip of 50 tons might come in, and at full ſeas one above 300 tons. There were then finiſhing two jetty heads which would perfect the mouth of the haven, ſo that any ſhip whatſoever might come in. The charge of the two walls, with the appurtenances, amounted to but 2700l. This pent of water was ſo great, that though on the breaking of one of the gates of the ſluices the beach and ſand came in and ſwarved it up, ſo that in four days no boat could come in or go out, yet on its being repaired again, a veſſel of 30 tons was able to paſs in and out. The ſmall ſluice at firſt laid in the croſs-wall was taken up, and one of 16 broad, 80 long, and 30 feet deep laid in its room, which had two gates, and as it was a whole month in laying, ſo the good Lord Cobham ſtaid there all the time, and kept a table to encourage the workmen. So univerſal a diligence and public ſpiritedneſs appeared in every one concerned in this mighty and moſt uſeful work.

Since that time it has again declined, notwithſtanding many efforts made, more eſpecially in the reigns of king Charles the Second and of William the Third, and great aſſiſtance given, from time to time, by the authority of

parliament, for its relief. But as the poor haven, ſuch as it is, remains ſtill capable of receiving veſſels of ſmall burden, and as the packets to France and Flanders are ſtationed here in time of peace, it is, though in the cuſtom-houſe books but a member of the port of Sandwich, by much the place of moſt trade and buſineſs upon all this coaſt, and the people equally active and induſtrious. The town, in its preſent ſtate, may be a mile long; the two pariſh churches art ſtill remaining, and both the fortreſs and the town retain their old honours; the former has its conſtable, and the latter its mayor, and other magiſtrates: And may they retain them! that theſe inſignia of former ſplendor may, ſome time or other, excite the Legiſlature to make a thorough examination, whether it may not be ſtill practicable to do ſomething towards retrieving its ports; which, if it could be effected, the town of itſelf would riſe again into conſideration, from the excellency of its poſition, that gift of nature; the advantages of which, though they may be ſuſpended, cannot be annihilated, even by the moſt ſupine neglect.

In king James the Iſt's charter of 1606, the back of the pier or harbour-ground was granted by the king to the warden and aſſiſtants of Dover harbour, as it lies without Southgate or Snargate, extending north-eaſt to a tenement or meſſuage (then Mr. Mitchell's) near the pier, and ſouth-weſt to Arcliff bulwark, and its bridge from the rocks and cliffs there unto the uttermoſt ſhore of the great ſtanding water, called the great Pent or Pent wall, and unto the port itſelf called the harbour of Dover, and unto the inwardmoſt bound of the ſea called low-water-mark.

Since that period it has undergone many repairs and alterations; and various regulations and laws have been enacted, to defray the expence of keeping it in good condi-

tion;

tion; but there are ſeldom veſſels of more than 250 or 300 tons burthen that venture in. Some new works have been lately added; a new head carried out to the weſtward of the pier, to prevent, if poſſible, a bar from forming at the entrance of the harbour; great labour and expence have attended this undertaking, which is not yet found effectual. Immenſe quantities of ſtone are alſo imported in order to finiſh the pier heads in the ſame ſubſtantial manner as thoſe at Ramſgate. A new ſluice is erected in the croſs-wall, and a very complete and ſubſtantial ſtone-key on the north ſide of the harbour, and other large works carrying on.

The coaſt at Dover is ſeparated from the continent of Europe by a ſtrait of about 24 miles broad, where ſome ſuppoſe the ſea forced a paſſage through the land. Hence a poet of the preſent age ſays,

——— Of either ſea the gate,
Where the waves echo in the narrow ſtrait,
And France and England's ſhores eternal diſtance keep.

That the whole eaſtern coaſt of Kent bears ſigns of having undergone great changes is evident; and nothing is more certain, from the moſt credible authors, than that by earthquakes and the inroads of the ſea, iſlands have been torn from the continent. Whence Ovid, as beautifully tranſlated by Dryden,

The face of places and their forms decay,
And that is ſolid earth that once was ſea;
Seas in their turn retreating from the ſhore,
Make ſolid land what ocean was before.

Whence alſo an ancient author has applied the following lines about Sicily to Britain:

Britain was once to ancient Gallia join'd,
But ſever'd ſince by rage of ſea and wind;
Victorious Nereus by his furious ſhocks,
Has burſt the bound, and laves the ſever'd rocks.

Dover is incorporated by the name of the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the town and port of Dover; as one Cinque Port, ſends two members to parliament, who are elected by the whole body of freemen, as well non-reſidents as reſidents. The Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports keeps here a court of Loadmanage, for chuſing and appropriating ſkilful and ſufficient pilots, to conduct ſhips into port. There are 50 in number, out of which a maſter is choſen by the whole fellowſhip. In times of peace Dover is the ſtation of the packet boats for conveying the mail and paſſengers from this kingdom to Calais and Oſtend, and many bye-boats for the conveyance of merchandize and paſſengers fitted up by Fector and Minet, and Latham and Co. and others ſail almoſt every tide to Calais and Boulogne, this being the general embarkation to the above places. From hence alſo are exported the chief part of the Engliſh horſes intended for foreign markets. Dover has a market on Wedneſday and Saturday, and a fair on the 22d of November; it is ſituated 72 miles from London, 16 from Canterbury, and 13 from Sandwich. Machines and diligences ſet out for and return from London every day. In 1778, the inhabitants procured an act of parliament for the better paving, cleanſing, lighting and watching the ſtreets and lanes within the town and its liberties.

Beyond Dover ſouthward, leading to Folkſtone, is an exceeding high cliff, which is thus beautifully deſcribed by Shakeſpeare in his tragedy of King Lear:

There is a cliff, whoſe high and bending head
Looks fearfully on the confined deep——
How dizzy 'tis to caſt one's eye ſo low!
The crows and choughs that wing the midway air,
Seem ſcarce ſo groſs as beetles. Half way down
Hangs one that gathers ſamphire; dreadful trade!
Methinks

Methinks he ſeems no bigger than his head.
The fiſhermen that walk upon the beach
Appear like mice, and yon tall anchoring bark
Diminiſh'd to her cock; her cock a buoy,
Almoſt too ſmall for ſight. The murmuring ſurge,
That o'er th' unnumbered idle pebbles chaſes,
Cannot be heard ſo high. I'll look no more,
Leaſt my brain turn and the deficient ſight
Topple down headlong ———

And in another place he ſaith,

From the dread ſummit of this chalky bourn
Look up; a height—the ſhrill gor'd lark ſo far
Cannot be heard or ſeen.

Though this cliff may not, in our days, be ſtrictly ſaid to anſwer the deſcription of this poetical painter of nature, yet in Shakeſpeare's time it was certainly higher than it is at preſent; which as the aſcent to the top on the land ſide ſhews it to be the leſſer ſection of a hill of chalk, chequered with horizontal ſtrata of black flints, whoſe baſe being continually worn by the agitation of the ſea, every fragment detached from its ſummit leſſens the perpendicular height, (ſuppoſed now to be not leſs than 400 feet). A tremendous elevation, which will not fail to excite admiration, and even aſtoniſhment in thoſe not accuſtomed to the view of objects of this kind. From Dover the chalk cliffs run on in one continued ridge for near ſix miles towards Folkſtone, their heights varying from 300 to 500 feet; but in one part near Folkſtone turnpike, the elevation was aſcertained by the late general Roy, in 1789, when he was purſuing a courſe of experiments, by order of his preſent majeſty, for determining more accurately the relative ſituations of London and Paris, and found to be 569.8 above the level of the ſea.

STAGE

STAGE VIII.

Buckland.—St. Rhadagund's Abbey.—Walderſhare.—Weſt Langdon Abbey.—Ewell.—Barham Downs, and Watling-Street.—Broome.—Denhill.—Netherſole.—Barham.—Ileden.—Higham.—Biſhopſbourn.—Bridge.—Patrickſbourn—Bifrons.—Bekeſbourn, to Canterbury.

AFTER leaving Dover, in our road to Canterbury, the firſt place we arrive at is the little village of Buckland which has a ſmall church, but it contains nothing remarkable.* About a mile and a half to the left of this village are the remains of Bradſole, or St. Rhadagund's abbey. It was founded by Hugh, its firſt abbot, and filled with monks of the Premonſtratenſian order, which religious ſociety was inſtituted by St. Norbert, about the year 1119. Lambard ſays, at the ſuppreſſion it was valued at 98l. a year.

About five miles and a half to the right is the village of Walderſhare. The church is ſmall, but contains ſome good monuments of the ancient family of Monins, who were lords of the manor. In a ſeparate chancel, built by ſir Robert Furneſe, bart. is a noble Monument of ſir Robert's father, well executed in marble. In this pariſh is an elegant and pleaſant ſeat of the earl of Guildford. The houſe, which is a fine ſtructure, ſituated within a noble park, and ſurrounded with ſpacious gardens, was built by ſir Henry Furneſe. In the park is erected an high belvidere, which commands a beautiful and moſt extenſive view of the country. Oppoſite to lord Guildford's ſeat are the remains of Weſt Langdon abbey, which was founded by ſir William de Auberville, knt. in the reign of Richard I. for monks of the Premonſtratenſian order, and dedicated to

* A new bridge, to the great convenience of paſſengers has lately been built over the river which croſſes the road at this place.

St. Mary

St. Mary and St. Thomas the Martyr, of Canterbury. It was ſuppreſſed in the reign of Henry the Eighth.

Between the ſixty-eighth and ſixty-ninth ſtones on the road is the ſmall village of Ewell. This place is remarkable for having been the reſidence of the Knight's Templars, who had a grand manſion here, which probably was ſituated about half a mile to the right, where now is a place called the Temple. Proceeding towards Canterbury, and paſſing the ſixty-third ſtone, we enter Barham down, which extends in length about four miles. On the left is a beautiful vale, which contains ſeveral pleaſant villages and gentlemen's ſeats; the view to the right is not quite ſo open from the road, but on aſcending the eminence, the proſpect are equally diverſified and more extenſive. On this down is the ſcite of an ancient camp, with three ditches round it, which ſome conjecture to be the work of Julius Cæſar, on his ſecond expedition to this iſland. Dr. Stukely, in his *Itinerarium Curioſum*, ſays, "To Dover from Canterbury the Watling-ſtreet is ſtill the common way; it is left entire over Baram-Down, with a high ridge, ſtrait pointing to Canterbury cathedral tower; as ſoon as it enters the Down it traverſes a group of Celtic barrows, then leaves a ſmall camp of Cæſar's; further on it has been incloſed through two fields*, and levelled with ploughing; then it paſſes by a ſingle barrow, whereon ſtood the mill, which is now removed higher up; then it aſcends the hill to a hedge corner where are three barrows, a great one between two little ones, all encloſed with a double ſquare entrenchment of no great bulk; I fancy them Roman, becauſe parallel to, and cloſe by, the Roman road; the great barrow has a cavity at top, and an entrance eaſtward; whether caſually, or with

* Several other conſiderable encloſures have been made ſince Dr. Stukely publiſhed his Itinerarium Curioſum.

deſign,

deſign, I know not*. At Lydden the Watling-ſtreet falls into that noble valley of Dover, made of two huge ridges of chalk, which divide themſelves into leſſer vallies dropping into the great one at regular diſtances, as the little leaves of plants meet at the main ſtem; this valley when viewed from the end, looks like a landſcape on ſcenes, leſſening, according to perſpective, to Dover, between the two *phari*, and the ſea at the end encloſed between them. The ſtreet ſlides along the northern declivity, croſſes the rivulet which wanders through the midſt of the valley at Buckland, ſo to Biggin-gate, where is its termination, by the ſide of the old port, having now run from Cheſter about 250 miles. Many barrows are on the ſides of thoſe hills."

On a part of theſe downs called Breech, ſeveral human ſkeletons were diſcovered in 1758, lying near the road ſide; one of which had round the neck a ſtring of beads of various forms and ſizes, from the bigneſs of a pigeon's egg to that of a pea; by the ſide lay three inſtruments of war, a kind of ſcymetar, a dagger and a ſpear; ſeven others lay in good order, about a yard apart, and two feet under ground, but without any thing to diſtinguiſh them.

About the year 1212 king John encamped on Barham-Down with an army of 60,000 men, to oppoſe the French, who threatened him with an invaſion. Simon Montford, Earl of Leiceſter, alſo drew up a large army here in the reign of Henry III. many other ſcenes of war and peace have paſſed, too numerous to particulariſe. In 1760, when an invaſion was expected from our natural enemies the French, here was an encampment of ſeven regiments of

* Some of theſe barrows were opened a few years ſince by that learned and ingenious antiquarian the late Rev. Bryan Fauſſet, of Heppington, when ſeveral valuable relicks of antiquity were found, ſome of which were of pure gold.

foot,

foot, under the command of his grace the late duke of Marlborough.

In the valley on the left is Broome, the fine ſeat of ſir Henry Oxenden, bart. On the right is Denhill, the ſeat of Hardinge Stracey, eſq. which commands a moſt delightful view of the adjacent country. Near this ſtood Netherſole-houſe, the ancient manſion of John Wincheſter, eſq. which was pulled down in 1788, by the owner of the adjoining ſeat of Denhill. John Netherſole, eſq. proprietor of this eſtate in the reign of Henry VIII. was ſo great a favourite, that he was indulged to wear a cap in the King's preſence.

To the left of the Down is the village of Barham, which gives name to this delightful ſpot. The church has in it ſome monuments of the Diggs family, who reſided at Diggs-court in this pariſh, now the ſeat of Charles Dering, eſq. On the oppoſite ſide of the Down is Ileden, the ſeat of Thomas Watkinſon Payler, eſq. and about two miles farther towards Canterbury is Higham, the new ſeat of James Hallet, eſq. On this part of the Down, Canterbury horſe races are annually exhibited. The courſe, till within theſe few years, extended two miles in length, but is now much improved and made round, by which the ſport is greatly increaſed, as the horſes paſs in view twice in each four mile heat. An handſome building was compleated in 1774 for the reception of the numerous and genteel company which frequent thoſe races, and underneath are convenient offices. On the left is Bourne Place, late the ſeat of Sir Horatio Mann, but now of John Harriſon, eſq. in the midſt of a paddock, with a beautiful trout ſtream running at an agreeable diſtance from the front of the houſe. Since the game of cricket has been patroniſed by ſeveral of our nobility and gentry, in this paddock many grand matches have been decided, between the greateſt heroes of the *Bat* this age, or perhaps

perhaps any other, ever produced. The parish of Bishopsbourn, in which this seat stands, was so called because it was given by king Kenulph, at the request of archbishop Atheland, to the priory of Christ-Church. In the church are several good monuments, particularly that of the Rev. and learned Mr. Richard Hooker, author of the Ecclesiastical Polity, who was rector of this parish; and in the seat of Bourne-place, is a most curious painted window executed from Holland.

From the west end of the Down we descend into the village of Bridge. This place took its name from a bridge over a branch of the Stour* which runs through it. It rises from a spring in the parish of Bishopsbourn, and is some times almost dry; at other times a flood comes down from springs about Elham, with great rapidity, till interrupted by what the neighbours call swallows, where it sinks into the earth till that is saturated, then rushes on again to the next interruption of the same kind, so that a stranger might be amazed at walking near this river's side and down the stream till he has lost it, and finds the channel dry. Near a mile to the right is the small village of Patricksbourn; formerly it had the name of Cheney, and was the residence of the noble family of Cheney, before they removed to Shurland in the isle of Shepey. The church is a building of considerable antiquity; over the south door is a curious Saxon arch, carved with a variety of figures. In this parish stood the ancient and very pleasant seat called Bifrons, the residence of the Rev. Edward Taylor. "It was built,"

* This bridge being decayed and otherwise inconvenient for carriages, a new and more commodious one has been built by subscription, for which the public are much indebted to the assiduity of the Rev. Mr. Taylor, as also for his great attention to the improvements on the road up Bridge hill, before the repairs under the late turnpike act.

says

ſays Dr. Harris, " by Robert Bargrave, eſq. or one would rather think by his lady, if one may judge by this motto which was placed upon it :

Diruta ædificat uxor bona, ædificata diruit mala.

The old houſe was pulled down in Feb. 1775, and is now rebuilt on a modern and more commodious conſtruction.

Near this village is that of Bekeſbourn, which anciently belonged to the cinque port of Haſtings, and enjoyed the ſame privileges. Henry de Beke held certain lands in this pariſh by grand ſergeantry, to find one ſhip each time Henry III. paſſed the ſea. Philipot ſays, the branch of the Stour was navigable to this place in the reign of Edward III. There was a chantry in the church, founded in 1314, by one James of Bourne, the revenues of which were tranſlated to Cokyn's hoſpital in Canterbury, in 1362. The archbiſhops of Canterbury had here a ſmall but elegant palace, of which the gate-way ſtill remains. Near Bekeſbourn is the new erected ſeat of Iſaac Bough, eſq. who bought the eſtate of Sir Philip Hales, bart. and pulled down Howletts, the ancient reſidence of the Hales family.

From Bridge to the city of Canterbury we meet with nothing remarkable till we come to St. Laurence, the ſeat of the late colonel John Graham, near which, on the left, lies the high road to Romney marſh. This ſeat is between the 56th and 57th mile-ſtone.

We have now brought our traveller to the end of our intended route ; and if we have given him that entertainment which might be expected from this little volume, we ſhall be happy on a future occaſion to accompany him to ſome other part of the county of Kent, a county ſtill fruitful in various events, and which has ever made ſo diſtinguiſhed and principal a part of our Engliſh hiſtory.

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